

National Power chief's 58% increase

Major attacks huge pay rises for executives

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND MARTIN WALLER

JOHN Major yesterday broke his silence on the controversy over big pay rises for the heads of newly privatised industries and condemned the 58 per cent increase awarded to the chief executive of National Power.

Five privatised utilities have announced increases of 35 per cent or more for senior executives in the past month, embarrassing the government at a time when it is calling for wage restraint. Details of John Baker's £135,000 package emerged yesterday as Southern Water disclosed that its chairman had received a 50 per cent rise.

In the Commons, Roy Hattersley asked the prime minister if he would join him in condemning Mr Baker's increase. Mr Major replied: "Yes sir, adding: 'I made it perfectly clear when I was chief secretary (to the Treasury) some years ago that I do not believe excessive salary increases are right, and that remains my view.'"

But he insisted that the

government would not use its 40 per cent shareholding in National Power to overturn the increase. Mr Hattersley, deputising for Neil Kinnock who was in Germany, retorted that if the prime minister was not prepared to act, his condemnation was no more than "feeble public relations".

In refusing to interfere, the prime minister pointed to the prospectus that was issued when National Power was sold. That included a government pledge not to intervene in commercial decisions. The prospectus also named the independent non-executive directors who would set salaries and reported their recommendation that directors' pay be increased "to levels which are more appropriate to a private sector company".

Mr Baker defended his increase, which came as his workforce considered action over an 8.9 per cent offer, as being in line with industry as a whole and as "on the low side" compared with the heads of other big companies. "This is a competitive business in a competitive market," he said, adding that for nine months he had fulfilled a double role while National Power sought a chairman.

But Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, said Mr Baker's pay rise could not be justified. "The rise is just another product of the fatal combination of greed with opportunity," he said. "The directors supply the greed and the government has supplied them with the opportunity."

Mr Dobson last night wrote to Mr Major urging the government to call Mr Baker and his board to account. He reminded the prime minister that as recently as a month ago, he had urged company directors to exercise restraint over their pay and John Wakeham, the energy secretary, had said it was for companies to defend their decisions to their shareholders.

Downing Street made clear last night that the government had no wish to return to the "bad old days" of political interference, but sources suggested that company chiefs enjoying the freedom of the private sector of the first time would be well advised to exercise some of the discretion shown by older hands in the

privatisation business, such as Lord King of Wartaby, chairman of British Airways, who has taken a pay cut. Ministers recognise that the big increases in the midst of recession are tarnishing the image of privatisation.

In the Commons, Mr Major staunchly defended the decision to sell off the utilities of power, water, gas and telecommunications. Privatisation had been carried out in the interest of customers and they had benefited from the transfer to the private sector. Electricity prices had fallen over the past seven years in real terms, prices in the privatised gas industry had fallen by 11 per cent, British Telecom prices had dropped by 20 per cent, and 95 per cent of its callboxes now worked. "None of that happened when it was in public ownership."

National Power yesterday reported a pre-tax profit of £479 million, slightly more than that projected in the privatisation prospectus, and Southern Water £97.1 million. Mr Baker's pay rise was announced as Southern Water disclosed that its chairman, Bill Courtney, had received a 50 per cent increase, taking his income for the year to March to £120,000.

Other big pay rises announced recently included 66 per cent for Robert Evans, the British Gas chairman, Robert Evans, whose income rose to £370,000 in 1990-1; 43 per cent for Iain Vallance of British Telecom, who earned £536,000; and 35 per cent for John Harris, the chairman of East Midlands Electricity, who received £90,500.



Rain dance: Martina Navratilova yesterday, celebrating her 100th singles victory at Wimbledon since she first played there in 1973. The nine-times champion struggled to defeat Elina Reinach of South Africa. Matches started promptly but rain interrupted play, and the first match will begin at 11am today, the earliest start in the championships' history. Hot spot, page 20; Match reports, pages 39, 40

UK troops to stay in Iraq until Kurds' safety assured

By ROBIN OAKLEY

BRITISH troops will not be withdrawn from Iraq until other measures are in place to protect the Kurds, John Major said yesterday. The prime minister told Cranley Onslow, chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 committee, that the 3,000 troops would not be pulled out until the Kurds were given suitable assurances on their safety.

Mr Major said these assurances were "firstly, an effective UN force on the ground; secondly, clear warnings to Iraq that any renewed repression will meet the severest response; thirdly, a continuing deterrent military presence in the region to back-up those warnings, and the maintenance of sanctions against Iraq". MPs cheered when he added: "Without these, we will not leave."

As the United States runs down its involvement in Iraq, Britain is urging the United Nations to install more quickly its own observers to protect the Kurds. Mr Major and President Mitterrand of France are expected to urge other European Community leaders at the Luxembourg summit this weekend to help meet the UN appeal for cash to pay for the operation.

M. Mitterrand said after his meeting with Mr Major in Dunkirk on Monday that there had been a considerable convergence of their views on the need for vigilance over the Kurds and on the necessity for providing the means to continue that vigilance. Questions had been put to the Iraqi government and future action would depend on the nature of its replies.

Britain has been pulling out the troops originally involved in bringing the Kurdish refugees down from the mountains but is retaining the forces which were installed to guard them against possible attacks by President Saddam Hussein's forces in Iraq. As Mr Major confirmed yesterday, it was never intended to maintain a permanent British presence in the region, but these troops will stay until an alternative is in place.

Ministers have been negotiating with allies to put together an "over the horizon" deterrent force which would be kept in the area to

react swiftly to any Iraqi persecution of the Kurds.

Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, yesterday visited Margaret Thatcher at her London office to brief the former prime minister on government efforts to help the Kurds.

● Sarsank, Iraq: Coalition troops in the safe havens of northern Iraq are complaining that Western political leaders are dithering over when and to what extent Western forces should be withdrawn (Andrew Finkel writes).

Some British troops who had earlier been withdrawn to Turkey have crossed back into the safe haven. According to coalition officers the decision to recommit the forces was taken at the political level a week ago. "The mission is not over," the allies' official spokesman in Iraq said.

UN probe, page 10

Two seized after bomb injures 20

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE seized two young men in a Belfast street yesterday seconds after a bomb was thrown into a nearby police station causing an explosion that injured 20 people. Officers in plain clothes chased the men and rugby-tackled them after the attack.

The bomb, which went off as the road was crowded with lunchtime shoppers, seriously injured two Royal Ulster Constabulary officers and a civilian. Another 17 civilians caught in the explosion at the Queen Street RUC station needed hospital treatment.

A witness said that immediately after the blast he saw two men on the ground. One was being held at gunpoint and the other was being sat on by a man in civilian clothes.

The RUC said that one of the injured officers suffered leg wounds and the other injuries to his arms and legs. Police were last night questioning two suspects.

COUNTRY TIMES

GREEN INCENTIVE

Michael Heseltine launches a scheme to give farmers £120 an acre to conserve a valuable, but vanishing, landscape Page 4

GREEN BOGEY

Put out fewer flags: English Heritage wants councils to stop the spread of golf courses and save the countryside Page 4

GREEN PEACE?

Maria Morris believes the family that rambles together, stays together. But there is rebellion along even the smoothest paths Page 12



MPs will get free travel to Europe

All backbenchers will be allowed two free trips a year to Brussels or Strasbourg, whatever their business there. Andrew Pierce reports

Britain wins EC respite

By PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN LONDON

FRANCE and Germany gave John Major a breathing space yesterday by agreeing that crucial decisions on economic and political union in the European Community should not be taken before the end of the year. Mr Major made clear that Britain will, in any case, insist at the EC summit in Luxembourg on Friday that references to federalism should be removed from any eventual treaty on European political and economic union.

The prime minister told MPs at question time yesterday that federalism meant something different all over Europe. Accused by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, of isolating Britain in Europe on the question, he won cheers from his side in saying it would be nice if the other Europeans would tell Britain what it meant.

Mr Major said if federalism meant imposed central government, he was against it. If it meant decentralisation, he could live with that.

President Mitterrand of France and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, assured Britain that it need not worry about "ambushes" being sprung at Luxembourg. They agreed that the Luxembourg meeting should be more of a stock-taking exercise, leaving a treaty of union to be adopted

at the next summit gathering at Maastricht in December.

Mr Major, who yesterday saw Jacques Santer, the Luxembourg prime minister, in Downing Street to discuss the shape of the European Council agenda, is ready to resist any attempts to press for qualified majority voting in the Council of Ministers on foreign policy, for increased legislative powers for the European parliament, and for the extension of EC competency into social issues including health, tourism and consumer protection.

In a letter sent to his fellow leaders yesterday, Mr Santer said that despite the arguments over the summit agenda he expects the summit under his chairmanship to give "clear guidelines on several big questions". This formula leaves open the possibility of pressure being brought to bear on Britain over its opposition to parts of the draft treaty on political and monetary union.

The next obstacle for Mr Major is today's Commons debate on Europe. Margaret Thatcher told MPs yesterday she was not planning to intervene.

Threat to jobs, page 7
Leon Brittan, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Yugoslav republics race to independence

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YUGOSLAVIA was tipped from the crumbling federation.

The independence legislation was rushed through both republics' parliaments a day earlier than planned and is expected to cause deep concern in the rest of Europe. America said that it would not recognise the independence declarations by the Yugoslav republics.

The votes may have been brought forward in an attempt to undermine any reaction by the federal government.

Independence moves, page 9
Leading article, page 15

INSIDE

Blake's evidence

The voice of the spy George Blake was heard in the number one courtroom at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, 30 years after he was sentenced there to 42 years in prison. He spoke on videotape from Moscow in defence of the two men accused of aiding his escape. Page 3

Liverpool aid

Liverpool council is expected to agree to give up control of some of its blocks of flats to housing trusts in exchange for tens of millions of pounds of government aid. Page 2

● Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in our appointments section, which has 16 pages of jobs.

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Soviet army may succumb to a Mac attack

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW



THE "Mac attack", that well-advertised burst of frenzy that is supposed to afflict cravers after hamburgers in squishy buns, may be about to take on a new meaning. If some highly unusual business discussions that took place in Moscow this week bear fruit, then the next time the Red Army (as it used to be known) marches off to war, it could be on stomachs full of large cheeseburgers to go and banana milkshakes.

George Colton, president of McDonald's Canada and the man who brought fast food to Moscow, has agreed with the head of Soviet armed forces that the Big Mac may be just what the Red Army's notoriously ill-fed squadrics need to supplement their standard diet of buckwheat and dry bread. A corporate spokeswoman rather improbably described her chief's encounter with General Mikhail Moiseyev as a "casual meeting" (over Coke and fries?) at which they "discussed the potential for Moscow McDonald's to supply food services on some large military bases in the USSR".

Mr Colton is reported to have found the encounter "very interesting" and to have agreed that experts on both sides should look into the details. The general told Tass he was ready for "broad cooperation" with the multinational giant.

In the 15 months since its Soviet branch opened, McDonald's has already become part of the capital's landscape. Its huge "M" sign looms over what used to be Gorky Street, and the name of Pushkin Square no longer conjures up images of fearless demonstrators braving police batons so much as an endless, snake-shaped queue of seekers after hamburgers. But Big Macs in the Red Army? Vladimir Kryuchkov, the KGB chairman, is presumably having apoplexy: last winter, at the height of the food crisis, he accused America of sending "poisoned" wheat under the guise of food aid - and only a few days ago he warned of a massive US conspiracy, which he rumbled as back as far back as 1977, to brainwash Soviet minds.

The discussions with McDonald's are also rather unflattering to the managers of the armed forces' 83 "military farms" who take considerable pride in the efficiency of their operations. The military farms reportedly supply the army with just over a quarter of its meat requirements, one third of its potatoes and vegetables and virtually all its dairy products.

Gorbachev meeting, page 7

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Duke joins compensation fight for injured guardsmen



The duke has shown keen interest in case

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of Edinburgh has joined the campaign to win compensation from the defence ministry for three Grenadier guardsmen who lost their legs when an old training shell exploded two years ago.

Acting in his capacity as colonel of the Grenadier Guards, the duke has made clear that he supports the regiment in its efforts on the soldiers' behalf.

The three soldiers, Lance Corporal John Ray, aged 24, from Bristol, Guardsman Adrian Hicks, aged 23, from Lincoln, and Sean Povey, aged 21, from Willingham, Staffordshire, were refused compensation after the Treasury solicitor and senior

counsel ruled that the ministry was not legally liable for the injuries sustained. The soldiers were hit by a 72mm shell as they were digging a trench on a training exercise in Canada in July 1989. The explosion blew off their legs below the knee.

Battle goes on for ignored victims of military accidents

THE defence ministry is preparing today to present claims for compensation for death and injury in the Gulf caused by alleged negligence.

Service men who were injured by negligence before 1986 cannot claim compensation. The defence ministry is preparing today to present claims for compensation for death and injury in the Gulf caused by alleged negligence.

doing something. Their attitude is diabolical." A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said that the duke "takes a keen interest in the welfare of soldiers in the regiment", adding: "This is not the Duke of Edinburgh having a battle with the Ministry of Defence; he is purely supporting his regiment."

John Major announced last week that he would look into the three soldiers' case but emphasized it would be on legal grounds only.

Both Cpl Ray and Guardsman Povey are still in the army and are being paid their normal salaries. Guardsman Hicks has now started a resettlement course. Mr Hicks has left the army with a tax-free service-

attributable pension, a terminal grant and a tax-free social security war pension. Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, was criticised last week for saying that the men did not need legs for some office jobs.

The plight of the three soldiers was first highlighted in *The Times* on April 29. The defence ministry said that each case was treated on its merits.

The principal difficulty was proving who was liable for their injuries, since it is not known whether it was the Canadians or British who fired and left the shell in the ground at the army training area at Suffield in Canada.

Letters, page 15

Liverpool council ready to give up tower block control

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LIVERPOOL'S Labour-run council is today expected to approve talks with the government on a multi-million pound facelift for the city's run-down tower blocks.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is prepared to grant the city aid running into tens of millions of pounds if it agrees to a radical scheme to hand control of many of its 71 high-rise blocks of flats to a housing action trust.

The trust would be the 'third, and largest, established since legislation three years ago that gave council tenants the right to opt out of council ownership. A trust has been approved in Hull and a decision to set one up in Waltham Forest is expected shortly. In a

related move, substantial sums from the government Housing Corporation's £2 billion budget could be made available to housing associations in Liverpool to bring some of the city's 5,500 empty properties back into use.

If it agrees a feasibility study today the council would be making its second dramatic decision within a week to fall in with Conservative policies. It follows the move to privatise refuse collection services with the French-owned Onyx UK to empty the city's bins from August 1.

Despite Labour's coolness towards the trust it will be portrayed as a further sign of the moderate Labour administration's determination to tackle Liverpool's long-standing

difficulties. It also follows a change in the environment department's approach to housing since Mr Heseltine's return to the government.

After the disappointing response to earlier trust plans, with ballots going against ownership switches, the government is now looking for deals in which the council at least takes a neutral attitude. According to informed sources, Mr Heseltine's "less confrontational" policies towards local authorities have been responsible for bringing him to the brink of a deal that would have been unthinkable when Militant dominated the council leadership.

If the Hull model is followed, the board will consist of 11 members, with the

chairman and five members appointed by the secretary of state, three chosen by the council and two by the tenants. The aim is to retain a serious degree of council involvement.

Council officials said yesterday the council had no money available to spend on improving the blocks. A report before members will put the estimated cost of comprehensive improvements at between £2 million and £3 million per block. Bill Owen, chairman of the housing committee, said yesterday: "If we are to rescue these blocks then we have to look at ways in which we can gain government money."

Martin Jacques, page 14

MP accused of betrayal over Militant backing

LABOUR yesterday accused one of its Liverpool MPs of betraying the party and handing its opponents a gift in the crucial Walton by-election for backing Militant in a Commons speech (Philip Webster writes).

John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, and Peter Kilfoyle, the Walton candidate, condemned remarks by Terry Fields, MP for Broadgreen, in which he opposed redundancies ordered by the Labour-run city council to try to balance its books.

By stopping just short of backing the Broad Left candidate Lesley Mahmood, Mr Fields avoided an offence that

would have lost him the Labour whip in the Commons. If he oversteps the mark any further, that course will be considered and there is likely to be growing pressure on Neil Kinnock from Labour MPs to remove him as a candidate at the general election.

Mr Kilfoyle yesterday disowned Mr Fields, one of two Militant-supporting MPs on the Labour benches. He said that he totally disagreed with Mr Fields "and what he stands for in those comments on Liverpool". He said the people of Liverpool were sick and tired of the city being used as a "political laboratory".

Binmen turn to task of clearing backlog

REFUSE workers in Liverpool yesterday began clearing the 12,000-tonne backlog of rotting rubbish caused by their work to rule, as Harry Rimmer, leader of the council, appealed to trade unions to end the strikes disrupting the city (Ronald Faux writes). The action was futile, he said, failing to achieve its objective and was only causing hardship and discomfort.

A meeting of the binmen agreed to return to normal working, with 28 hours overtime, to clear emergency dumps and rubbish-clogged alleyways. The deal will add two hours to a working day for the next two weeks, with

double time for Sundays. The men will be paid a £150 bonus on July 5 if most of the rubbish has been collected.

On July 31 the rubbish-clearing contract goes to a French-owned company, and 461 binmen, drivers and support staff will be redundant. Fewer than half expect to be employed by the company.

The council reported yesterday that about 550 staff were on strike. 200 of them were employed by the treasury, which said that social security and housing department workers called out in protest at compulsory redundancy faced by 180 workers.



Up and away: Liverpool binmen returning to work yesterday to begin clearing the 12,000-tonne build-up of rubbish in the city caused by their overtime ban

One mortgage-holder in 12 is in arrears, Shelter says

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

ONE in 12 of Britain's nine million home owners with mortgages is in arrears and repossession has more than doubled in the past year, according to figures published by the housing charity Shelter yesterday.

The figures, in the charity's magazine *Roof*, show that arrears and repossessions reached record levels in the year from March 1990 to March 1991 and are still rising.

Although the number of loans in arrears for up to six months has increased substantially, arrears of six months or more show an even more dramatic rise, up by 140 per cent from 87,360 to 209,620. The total number of people in arrears in March was 784,900, representing 8.3 per cent of loans, compared with 531,900, or 5.7 per cent of loans, the previous March.

During the same period, repossessions increased from 20,640 to 47,940. The magazine's figures were compiled by Janet Ford of Warwick university in research funded by the Bank of England.

Commenting on the figures, Tim Dwyer, deputy editor of *Roof*, said that the doubling of the number of home owners with arrears of six months or more suggested that lenders were reluctant to repossess homes while the market was subdued. "But an improvement in the housing market towards the end of the year could trigger up to 200,000 repossessions, creating an unprecedented explosion in homelessness."

The low level of social housing being built meant that councils and housing associations would be unable to cope with such a sudden surge in demand.

He said that the 35,000 new homes built by the public sector in 1990-1 were already outnumbered by the 48,000 repossessions recorded. Now that interest rates were falling, the big rise in arrears sug-

gested that the recession was beginning to replace high repayments as the primary cause of mortgage debt. In the present circumstances, Miss Ford says, any belief that an upturn in the housing market is all that is needed may be misplaced, at least in the short term.

"If defaulters and lenders attempt to sell in any numbers, they alone have the potential to flood the market, reversing any upward trend in house prices, so worsening their position further," she said. "Without the prospect of

Bank quote misleading

THE TSB was given a conditional discharge for two years by Exeter magistrates yesterday for giving a misleading mortgage quotation. The bank admitted that it had not included the total amount to be repaid, as required under the Consumer Credit Act.

A trading standards officer, posing as a customer, received the quotation from a TSB

branch in Exmouth, Devon, said Martin Leigh, prosecuting for Devon county council.

Anthony Peto, for the defence, said the charge was a technicality because the quotation included the monthly payments; the total repayment could easily be worked out.

The TSB was earlier cleared of offering starter mortgages with misleading interest rates.

Home to be closed after drug claims

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A PRIVATE children's nursing home where disturbed youngsters were drugged against their will is to close, it was announced yesterday.

Langton House, near Swanage, Dorset, owned by AMI Healthcare, is the second home for seriously disturbed children where evidence has emerged of drugs being administered forcibly.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced on Monday that three senior managers had been suspended at the government-run St Charles' youth treatment centre in Brentwood, Essex, after a teenage girl was injected with tranquillisers against her will.

Staff at Langton House had been criticised by health inspectors for their rigid behaviour modification programme, which included periods of isolation and the occasional use of forceful drug administration. The home is due to close on July 19.

Car maker cuts prices for August

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NISSAN is to cut the cost of its cars by an average 10 per cent, taking as much as £3,800 from showroom sticker prices and signalling the start of the most bitter price war so far seen by the motor industry.

Other big car firms are refusing to disclose whether they would follow the move by Nissan - Britain's fifth largest car manufacturer - but worsening sales indicate that they will be forced to do so within a few weeks.

Sales of new cars are down by almost a quarter this year, and dealers have been unofficially cutting prices by up to £1,500 for a mid-range saloon. In spite of government reassurances that the recession has bottomed out, the motor industry fears that no end to its problems is in sight. The Retail Motor Industry Federation said that demand for cars with "J" registration plates could be 350,000, compared to sales of more than 433,000 in August last year and over half a million in 1989.

Labour to review teaching standards

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

PARENTS, teachers, and governors will, if Labour wins the next general election, be able to take their complaints about the way a school is run to a national Education Standards Commission, which will have the power to dismiss poor teachers.

To improve standards every school and college, whether state or independent, will be inspected every five years, in addition to regular published interim reviews, Jack Straw, the party's education spokesman, said yesterday.

The existing education establishment would be drastically changed under Labour's plan; the 500 school inspectors (Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools) would be transferred to the commission to work alongside 2,500 inspectors employed by local authorities.

The commission would take over some of the functions of the National Curriculum Council and the Schools' Examination and Assessment Council.

The commission would

have 10 to 15 members appointed by the education secretary but approved by the all-party Commons science and education committee.

Under Labour's plan, which would be introduced during its first year in government, local education authorities would have to monitor and inspect all schools and colleges, establishing policies for raising standards where schools had failed to meet agreed targets. All reports, including examination results and follow-ups on how the main recommendations had been dealt with, would be published.

Mr Straw said Labour's plan was unlikely to be more expensive than present arrangements as it would rely on the redeployment of resources. The one-off start-up cost was estimated at less than £10 million.

Pointing out that the last two reports from the head of the inspectors had said that one-third of children in state schools were getting a raw deal, Mr Straw said: "While there will always be room for argument about exactly where standards are now, there must be little disagreement that standards could and should be higher."

● Peter Moores, the football pools millionaire, has donated £2 million to his old university to launch Oxford's school of management studies (John O'Leary writes). The donation by the Peter Moores Foundation, with £3 million from Sir John Templeton, has put the university on the way to a target of £40 million by 1994.

The money will be used to enlarge Templeton College, established after a previous gift from Sir John, and to recruit another 30 academics. Sir John, a British citizen born in the US and who lives in the Bahamas, is also an Oxford graduate. He founded the Templeton group of investment funds.

Navy to scrap plan for new submarine

By OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Navy plans to design a new nuclear-powered submarine for the next century have been abandoned for lack of money. An announcement about the death of the proposed SSN20 submarine is expected early next month.

The SSN20, which would have been the navy's fastest and quietest submarine, is the latest victim of the defence ministry's "options for change" exercise, which involves cutting back on manpower and equipment to fit a diminishing budget. The next generation nuclear "hunter-killer" submarine would have replaced the Swiftsure class boats that first came into service in 1973.

Now the navy has come up with an alternative - an upgrading of the Trafalgar class boat, the navy's latest generation submarine and one of the quietest in the world. The defence ministry is expected to order six of the upgraded Trafalgar class boats from the mid-1990s.

An upgraded Trafalgar would involve using the same hull but installing more advanced weapons, sonars and sensors. The pressurised water reactor being developed for the Trident ballistic missile submarine may be used to power the submarines.

One source said: "We have a good platform in the Trafalgar Class, so it makes sense to update the systems, if we cannot have a new boat."

Richard Sharpe, editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*, criticised the anticipated decision, which could be announced in the defence white paper early next month, as "a poor man's compromise". He added: "The last Trafalgar was ordered in January 1986, which means there will be a 10-year gap between orders with all the implications of technological changes."

Spycatcher ban 'a blow to freedom'

The ban obtained by the government on the publication of *Spycatcher* was a wholly inappropriate and unjustified interference with freedom of expression in Britain, the European Court of Justice was told yesterday.

Opening what is seen as a test case on freedom of speech, Anthony Lester, QC, said that the year-long ban on publication of *Spycatcher* by the media in the UK was a drastic interference of that right.

He was outlining the challenge brought by Times Newspapers and Andrew Neil, editor of *The Sunday Times*, over the injunction obtained by the government that stopped the media publishing extracts of the memoirs of Peter Wright, a former MI5 officer, even though it was a worldwide bestseller.

The injunction was a breach of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects freedom of expression, he said.

Queen's award

Anne Neal, information officer at Buckingham Palace, who retires this week after 29 years' service, was yesterday invested by the Queen as the Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, the sovereign's personal gift. Mrs Neal was closely involved in the BBC's *Royal Family* film in 1969 and in the filming of next year's BBC documentary to mark the 40th anniversary of the Queen's accession.

Watchdog call

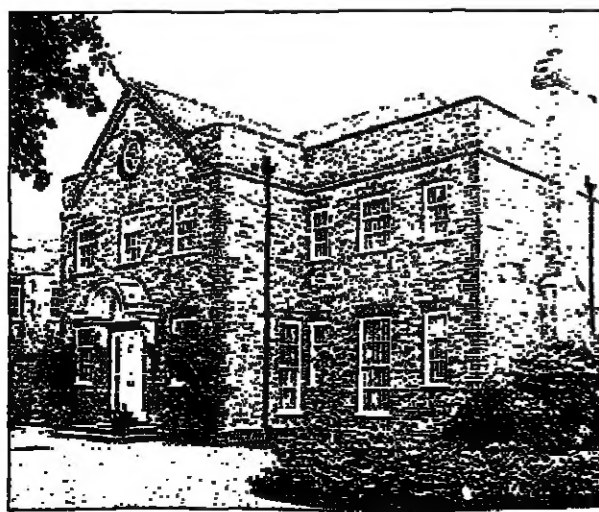
A national watchdog agency to monitor the disposal of millions of tonnes of hazardous waste each year is needed urgently, the British Medical Association says in a report published today. It says the government has no national strategy to deal with the materials, and estimates that about five million tonnes of such waste is produced in Britain each year, excluding radioactive materials.

Royal circles

Two corn circles and a 10-metre square have appeared on land belonging to the Prince of Wales. Dr Terence Meaden, leading the Anglo-Japanese project Operation Bluehill in Wiltshire, said that they were excellent examples and was sure that the prince found them enlightening. The circles at Newton St. Looc, near Bath, Avon, were formed three weeks ago but had only just come to light.

Thatchers' Dulwich retreat on sale for £675,000

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT



VIP residence: the four-bedroom house that was owned by the Thatchers for five years

THE neo-Georgian house for sale in Hambleton Place, Dulwich, southeast London, may not have a blue plaque adorning its facade, but it is no ordinary Barratt home.

After five years of ownership, Margaret Thatcher and her husband Sir Denis are selling up and moving to the more fashionable, and more central, location of Chester Square. They have instructed the estate agent Keith Cardale Groves to put the four-bedroom house on the market at £675,000.

The Thatchers paid about £400,000 in 1986 for what is one of the largest of the 20 or

so houses on Barratt's development in Dulwich, set between the South Circular Road and Dulwich and Sydenham golf course. In today's difficult housing market, the £675,000 price is perhaps optimistic, but Philip Christie, manager of the agent's Mayfair office, said: "It is something unique. No matter what the market is doing generally, there is always going to be demand for a property which has something like this to offer."

When Mrs Thatcher bought the house, she said that the key attraction was

the large, fitted kitchen. The next buyer will have the added attraction of the fitted carpets and curtains that the former prime minister chose personally.

A local estate agent sold two houses on the development last year for £575,000 and £550,000, and said that another agent had put a house on sale at £675,000 but had since reduced it. He agreed, however, that the Thatcher house could be a different proposition. "One would expect some sort of premium price for a house that is owned by such a VIP," he said.

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Voice and face of double agent echoes around courtroom 30 years after sentence

Blake speaks in defence of pair who helped him

By LIN JENKINS

THE voice and face of the double agent George Blake echoed around number one courtroom at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, 30 years after he was sentenced there to 42 years in prison.

He spoke on videotape from the safety of his Moscow flat in defence of the two men accused of aiding his escape from Wormwood Scrubs, harbouring him and helping him to flee the country.

Michael Randle described how the tape was made last year when he and his fellow accused, Patrick Pottle, their wives and solicitors went to Moscow and drank champagne with Blake in thanks and celebration at the successful execution of the plot a quarter of a century ago. Blake, with an undertone of a Russian accent, set bespectacled, balding and bearded, in a suit and tie, as he read a prepared statement in which he admitted revealing the names of secret agents but referred only briefly to the popular notion that the years of his sentence reflected the lives lost through his activities.

The jury watched in silence as the recording ran on three screens. Blake, aged 68, sitting on a sofa by a coffee table, bowed his head for his prepared statement and gave his address as care of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Profes-

sunaya Street, Moscow. At the end of the video, Julian Bevan, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury: "The Crown does not accept that statement as to its truth and accuracy in its entirety."

Mr Randle, aged 57, a peace studies researcher, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, and Mr Pottle, aged 52, a former antiques dealer of Crouch End, north London, have pleaded not guilty to aiding the escape, conspiring with Sean Bourke, now deceased, to harbour him, and assisting him with the intention of preventing his arrest. Examined by Mr Pottle, as the pair are conducting their own case, Mr Randle described Mr Blake for the first time since dropping him off on an East Berlin autobahn.

"I met him outside the hotel because as a Soviet citizen he was not allowed to enter except as a guest. The snowflakes were coming down and this man in a large sombrero-type hat came up to me and said: 'This is extraordinary, this is amazing.' He described how he was charmed by his second wife and met Misha, his teenage son, who was studying at Moscow university, before drinking glasses of champagne together. Mr Randle claimed that Blake was not a colonel in the KGB and denied he had any connection with security services. "He works at the In-



Blake in 1953 (left), and (right) reading his statement in Moscow, flanked by solicitors for Randle and Pottle



stitute of World Economy and International Relations and edits the English version of their year book. It is one of three major think tanks in the Soviet Union which have supported the reforms and upon which Gorbachev has relied upon in instituting these reforms."

He conceded that the pair had done all the things they were accused of. "We did help, albeit in a minor capacity, in the escape of George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs. We helped with finances and planning. We did harbour him and we did spirit him out of the country."

"However, we feel what we did was right in principle and in law. We have been faced with the stick of a possibly

longer sentence if we are found guilty and we have been offered the carrot of a deal whereby the main charge would be dropped if we pleaded guilty to one of the less severe charges. We believe we have a defence and that this should be put to the jury and it should be the jury that decides guilty or innocent."

Mr Randle said that he had at no time approved of what Blake had done, but said other people were known to have been responsible for death in carrying out their work for the security services but received honours rather than imprisonment for their efforts.

The hearing continues today.

Diary, page 14

What Blake said

George Blake's statement:

I was a member of the British secret intelligence service from August 1944 until the day of my trial, May 3, 1961. I was engaged in secret subversive operations directed against the Soviet Union, the Stalinist countries and world communism. It was my task to attempt the recruitment of Soviet citizens, and in particular members of the Soviet intelligence services and those of other socialist countries.

I have been advised by the solicitors acting for Mr Pottle and Mr Randle that because of the operation of the British Official Secrets Act I can say no more than that.

It was said my actions led to the deaths of British and other agents. I can confirm that at my trial it was never alleged that in working for both the British secret intelligence service and the Soviet intelligence service I was ever responsible for the deaths of agents.

However, I do not deny that I disclosed the identity of a number of agents to the Soviet authorities. After my conviction I was sent to Wormwood Scrubs, where in 1962 I first met

Pottle and Randle. I can confirm that neither Pottle nor Randle were at any time in contact with the Soviet authorities or acting on their behalf in helping me escape in 1966 from Wormwood Scrubs. Nor did they receive any financial assistance or reward at any stage for their assistance. Indeed, I had to explain to the Soviet authorities once I arrived in Moscow who these two men were and why they chose to assist me.

There never was any doubt in my mind that Pottle and Randle acted as they did out of purely humanitarian concern and specifically because of the length of my sentence. I say this as they repeatedly commented on the harshness of the sentence.

Furthermore, both men asked me to intervene on behalf of two well-known Soviet dissidents imprisoned at the time, Mr Daniel and Mr Sinyavsky.

I should like to conclude this statement by saying that I am deeply grateful to Mr Pottle and Mr Randle for having enabled me to lead a normal life over the last 24 years.

Baker presses police to build on quality

By QUENTIN COWDRY AND STEWART TENDLER

THE police should answer their critics by pursuing a "quality crusade" and strengthening their traditional community links, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said last night in a speech which set out the government's agenda for the service in the 1990s.

To the disappointment of some senior policemen and Tory backbenchers who have been hoping that ministers would press for a fundamental shake-up of the police, he spelled out why the government would not go into the election committed to a more centralised policing structure. A national police force, he said, would breed wasteful bureaucracies and would be vulnerable to undue government influence.

Instead, police needed to build yet stronger bridges with local communities, to embrace "quality of service" as a central ideal and to expand crime prevention. Addressing the Police Federation in London, he said that to meet the first two goals, more authority had to be devolved to local commanders and more information had to be collated and published on the 75 per cent of police work which did not relate to crime detection.

Mr Baker, who admitted that rising crime and a string of miscarriages of justice had seriously undermined public confidence, was speaking on the eve of today's Home Office figures which will show that recorded crime in England and Wales rose by 18 per cent in the year to April 1991, compared with the previous year.

The statistics will be construed by Opposition MPs as another sign of the government's alleged failure to fund the police adequately and to tackle what they believe are the underlying roots of crime, such as unemployment and poor public services. Mr Baker, however, said the figures were no real indicator of police performance and praised a recent leader in *The Times* which dismissed recorded crime statistics as hopelessly misleading.

Ministers and the inspectors of constabularies wanted forces to publish regularly a wider range of "quality data",

which would give details, for example, of the proportion of non-whites arrested or stopped and searched, numbers of complaints received and response times to emergency and other telephone calls from the public.

"Simply to record what amounts to some 25 per cent of police activities as if it was all that mattered presents a grossly distorted picture of what the police do, why they do it, and what the public wants from them," he said.

One way forces could enhance local accountability, he added, was by giving local commanders such as chief inspectors or superintendents more responsibility. Toward and clues needed to have a more visible local police chief.

Smoke alarm plea as six die in fire

By TIM JONES

THE government was yesterday urged to insist on smoke detectors being installed in all houses after a mother and five of her children died in a fire at Kilbirnie, Strathclyde.

Joanna Dunk, aged 27, died with her children, aged from five to 11, in the early hours of yesterday. The father, Alexander Nimmo, and two other children were taken to hospital. Mr Nimmo, who is critically ill, threw his son Andrew, aged three, from a bedroom window before jumping to safety. His daughter Kelly, aged two, also survived.

John Jamieson, firemaster for Strathclyde, said that a smoke alarm could have saved the six victims. He said that 73 people had died in house fires in Strathclyde last year, 60 per cent of whom could have survived if smoke detectors had been installed. "We believe that every new house should have properly installed smoke detectors," he added.

Grandparents Roy and Valerie Foxley died early yesterday morning after a fire at their home in Miles Flitting, Manchester.

Stolen secrets car 'had silent alarm'

By PETER VICTOR

AN RAF staff car from which secret defence plans and a computer were stolen was fitted with a silent car alarm, a court martial at RAF Uxbridge heard yesterday.

Wing Commander David Farquhar and Corporal Phillip Bromley, his driver, had stopped at the Car Supermarket showroom in Acton, west London, for less than five minutes when the computer and documents were stolen last December.

The wing commander, formerly personal staff officer to the joint commander-in-chief of British forces in the Gulf, faces a charge of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline contrary to section 69 of the Air Force Act 1955. If found guilty he faces a maximum sentence of two years' imprisonment and dismissal from the RAF.

Wing Cmdr Farquhar had been on his way back to RAF headquarters strike command after a briefing with the joint commander-in-chief, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, at the defence ministry in London. Returning to the car, locked and alarmed by Cpl Bromley, he found that

three briefcases, one of them containing briefing papers, and his computer had been stolen as well as £1,000 in cash and a miniature colour television. Cpl Bromley told the court martial that an alarm, designed to operate silently - indicating whether the car had been tampered with - had been activated.

He said that Wing Cmdr Farquhar normally friendly and pleasant, had been silent and seemed tired on the day of the theft. On the journey from the defence ministry back to High Wycombe he had fallen asleep in the car.

At the showroom Cpl Bromley had put the cases in the car boot on Wing Cmdr Farquhar's instruction and followed him, he said. Questioned by Nicholas Valios, QC, defending, he admitted that the wing commander had not invited him to follow and could not recall why he had left the car.

The stolen cases with most of the documents were found in the car park of a store in Greenford, west London. The remainder were found after a police search.

The case continues today.



Rescued: Katie, the first of 400 beagles saved from experiments or breeding, went home yesterday with Pamela Mills and her husband Jim of Croydon, south London, who have adopted her. The dogs were bought by the RSPCA after Perrycroft Kennels in Malvern, Worcestershire, went bankrupt this year.

Cheque book journalism bestows new respectability on the Street of Shame

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE City of London rewrote the rules of Monopoly yesterday. The corporation, intent on recouping the costs of relabelling its streets, auctioned off 59 lots of its most famous old street names in an unprecedented sale.

Board game players have long been accustomed to the idea that Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street cost £200 each. Not yesterday, they didn't. The Fenchurch Street signs, seven in the lot, were knocked down at £930, while Liverpool Street's five raised £1,100.

Most startling was the rise in Fleet Street's worth from Monopoly's £220. Six old nameplates from the erstwhile Street of Shame, keenly fought for by representatives of the popular press, fetched a starting £16,000.

The buyers, Associated Newspapers, paid, including VAT and buyer's premium, a total of £20,680, but they were in acquisitive mood and bid up to another £10,000 for Threadneedle Street. Their takeover of the Bank of England's home ground was thwarted, though, by a telephone bidder ready to part with £12,000 for the street's seven signs.

Brian Park, director of corporate affairs at Associated



Fleet Street: £16,000 for six. Old Bailey: £5,500 for one plate. Cannon Street: a bargain £650 for nine

Newspapers, said three of the Fleet Street signs would be placed "as a possible source of inspiration" in the editorial offices of each of the company's three titles, the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday*, and the *Evening Standard*. It had not yet been decided what to do with the other four, but one might be placed in the Northcliffe boardroom. "We are very traditional-minded here," he said, "and Associated are proud to have snapped up Fleet Street."

The condition and number of the old signs, most of them iron-framed rectangles of etched Vitrolite opaque glass weighing up to 30lb each,

seemed fairly immaterial to the bidders, although Tower Hill's signs were too damaged to be deemed saleable.

The bargains of the sale included nine Cannon Street signs knocked down at £650 the lot, 13 Queen Street signs for £1,100, nine from Watling Street for £750, ten from West Smithfield at £850, and 11 from Queen Victoria Street that realised £900.

By contrast, a single nameplate from Old Bailey fetched £5,500. The only other one is on permanent loan to the Museum of Law project, having been asked for three years ago, before the City chiefs hit on the idea of selling their

street names. Other singletons, from America Square and Whittington Avenue, made £800 and £1,500 respectively. Six Little Britains brought £2,200, four Pudding Lanes £2,200, and five Puddle Docks £1,000.

Christopher Mitchell, chairman of the corporation's planning and communications committee, said the City had spent £335,000 erecting 2,500 new vitreous enamel signs sporting the City of London's crest since realising in 1989 that redevelopment was causing many of the old signs to be lost or damaged.

Mr Mitchell denied that the publicity from yesterday's proceedings, which raised a hammer price total of £83,750, might encourage the rapid removal of new signs from the streets as well, although the point is causing some concern in the City engineer's department.

In any case, the City still has more than 800 of its old signs left to sell. They are on offer, individually or in lots, by postal tender in the next three weeks. Sealed bids have to reach Bonhams by noon on Tuesday, July 9, and names available include Back Passage, Ball Court, Cock Lane, Crutched Friars, Mincing Lane and Trump Street. Is Donald Trump still interested?

Beware of the Bulls.

Interest rate hopes fail to halt decline

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Farmers are offered £120 an acre for greener land

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A SCHEME offering farmers payments of up to £120 an acre to conserve and recreate some of England's most cherished, but vanishing, landscapes was launched yesterday by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, with the support of John Gummer, the agriculture minister.

Conservation groups welcomed the idea behind the scheme but said the funds committed by the government, £13 million in the first three years, were far too small and did not match ministers' rhetoric about putting care of the countryside at the heart of agricultural policy.

Mr Heseltine pledged that more funds would be found if the scheme was oversubscribed. He said food production could no longer be the main aim. Farmers must be encouraged to conserve, and not merely to exploit the countryside. He would be pressing hard with Mr Gummer in Brussels to achieve "a genuinely deep green" common agricultural policy.

Mr Gummer said farmers could not carry the whole burden of looking after the countryside and should be supported through public expenditure. "Our agricultural support policies must increasingly recognise this special

role of farmers as stewards of the countryside."

Robin Maynard, countryside campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "It is a good idea but the money on offer is peanuts when compared to the £1,600 million paid out to British farmers in food production subsidies each year. In 1989-90, for example, Britain spent £14 million on the storage of surplus cereals alone."

The Council for the Protection of Rural England claimed the ministers had been "hobbled" by the Treasury. Andrew Purkis, the council's director, said: "The Treasury was determined that the scheme should be limited and marginal and that incentives of this kind should not become an integral part of agricultural policy."

The Countryside Stewardship scheme, foreshadowed in the environment white paper last September, aims to preserve and restore five especially vulnerable landscapes: chalk and limestone grassland; lowland heath; grazing marshes, water meadows and other riverside landscapes; coastal vegetation; and upland areas.

Annual payments will be available to farmers who enter into 10-year land management contracts with the Countryside Commission. The payments will be higher for farmers who agree not merely to preserve landscapes but to restore them - for example, by allowing intensively cultivated fields to revert to grassland, heath, heather moorland or hay meadows.

There will also be a range of payments for restoring such traditional features as dry-stone walls, hedgerows, reed-beds and pollarded willows. Farmers will qualify for an extra £20 an acre if they permit public access. Half the population visited the countryside at least 12 times, and 38 per cent more than 25 times, in the past year, according to a poll conducted by the Countryside Commission.

One of the innovations of the scheme is that the incentives will be available throughout England, though not yet Wales or Scotland, and not limited to specially designated zones, such as environmentally sensitive areas and sites of special scientific interest.

The contagious "blue ear" pig disease has appeared for the first time in Norfolk, bringing to 22 the number of farms in England now under quarantine, the agriculture ministry disclosed yesterday. Seventeen of the farms are on Humberside, two in County Durham and one each in North Yorkshire, Warwickshire and Norfolk.

In a Commons reply on Monday night, Mr Gummer disclosed that pigs from Humberside, virtually all of which is under quarantine, had been traced to 18 counties in England and to Perthshire in Scotland. The counties are Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Co. Durham, Cumbria, Devon, Essex, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Somerset, Suffolk, Tyne and Wear, Warwickshire, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

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Halt called to march of the fairways



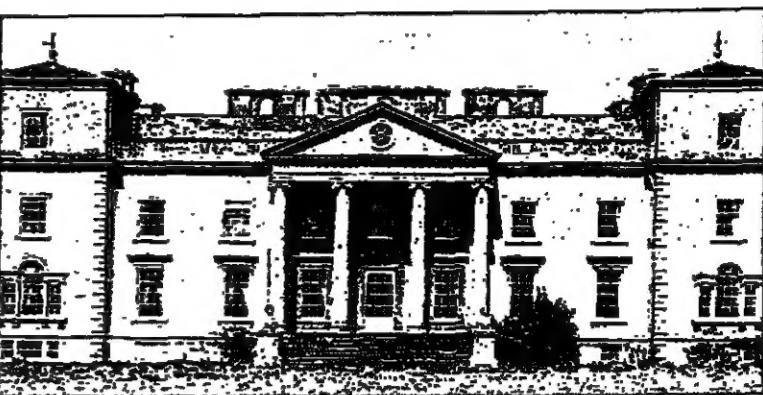
Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire: a further 18-hole golf course proposed together with a new hotel building



Bayham Abbey, Kent: one 18-hole and one nine-hole golf course proposed plus a club house and 20 apartments



Warwick Castle park: proposals for two 18-hole golf courses with a hotel and club house, subject to planning enquiry



Croome Court, Hereford and Worcester: proposals for one 18-hole, one nine-hole golf course and a club house

A REPORT to be published next week calls on local planning authorities to use their powers to curb the spread of golf courses on landscaped historic parks, which English Heritage has described as England's most distinctive contribution to European art.

The report, by three historic conservation societies, questions whether the need exists for the additional 1,400 golf courses which have been applied for by business consortia to add to the 1,828 already in existence.

Since the Royal and Ancient Club of St Andrews recommended in 1988 that 691 new courses be built in England before the year 2000, English Heritage has noted an ever-increasing number of applications by landowners to turn estates into bunker-strewn cash crops. Together, if all the applications were granted, they would cover an area the size of the Isle of Wight.

English Heritage believes that the stately homes of England and parkland of historic interest are under threat as landowners and

business consortia line up to send in bulldozers to transform vistas that have been entwined into the natural landscape over hundreds of years. More than 50 proposals for development that affect parks on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest have been lodged.

The famous houses and parklands facing redevelopment include Warwick Castle park, planned by Capability Brown, and Burley-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire.

David Jacques, English Heritage head of historic parks and gardens, fears that since the Royal and Ancient report a growing number of applications are aimed not at resolving the nationwide demand for the game but to bring in big returns from the luxury end of the market. Many of the applications merely combine a golf course with grander facilities of luxury country hotel conversions and conference centres.

He says that while historic parkland occupies only about 1 per cent of England, over 5 per cent of applications for golf courses are on

The green and pleasant landscapes of England's stately homes and parks are being torn apart for golf courses. Tim Jones reports on a campaign to stifle the developers

parkland. The threat, he says, is now being recognised and planning officers who, five years ago, would have given consent to an application "almost on the nod" are now exercising far more discretion in deciding whether to allow them.

English Heritage says that while consent must be sought for schemes that affect a scheduled ancient monument or the setting for a listed building, gardens and parkland do not have equivalent statutory protection. Construction of a golf course might involve clearing trees, hedgerows and tracks to create fairways, extensive ground modelling and adding ancillary buildings and car parks.

Any development, English Heritage says, should "avoid the loss of key features and essential character, and put the protection, management

and repair of the historic landscape on a more assured footing."

The report, by the Georgian Group, the Garden History Society and the Association of Garden Trusts, says that in future there should be a presumption against the development of golf courses in parks registered by English Heritage and in other parks of local importance. It says that as the manufacturing economy withers, leisure and tourism are being seen as the principal prospects for economic regeneration.

"There are rumours that the bottom has dropped out of the country house hotel market. Owners who have already been granted extensions of moderate size are now heard complaining that these are not enough and that their hotels are not viable without another bedroom wing, and no doubt another. Others are simply going bust. Will this be the pattern for the golf course boom?"

The report adds: "There are grounds for believing that the huge number of courses now in the pipeline cannot be sustained in practice; but by the time they too go bust many historic landscapes and the buildings in them may well have been irretrievably disfigured."

John Neale, of the Georgian Group, said: "Golf courses should not be constructed in parks of historic importance. Indeed, there should always be a presumption against the use of parks for golf and especially against such intensive development as is usually involved."

His report says that far from being a suitable means of using parks and financing

their maintenance, golf courses inevitably disrupt parkland, damaging its character and reducing its historic interest. Even their claim to secure the future of such parks is doubtful.

The government's draft policy planning guidance note on conservation areas, to be published soon, should facilitate the designation of historic parks as conservation areas, the report says. It also blames the government for barely mentioning the golf issue in its recent draft guidance note on sport and leisure. "The potential conflict between historic parkland and some forms of leisure activity should be explicitly acknowledged in any policy document of this kind."

Occasionally, the transformation can cause personal distress to those who were familiar with a landscape before planning consent was given to turn them into fairways. When, last March, Michelle Morris visited Orchardleigh Park, near Frome in Somerset, for the first time in four years, she was horrified. "It looked like a battlefield, like the Somme."

Her family, the Duckworths, had lived there for 129 years and before that the estate had, for around 300 years, been owned by the Champneys. Since it was sold for £4.2 million, the estate has changed hands twice and is now on the market because the hoteliers who bought it last have been forced to sell by the bank.

Work on the creation of two golf courses has been halted and the once verdant acres now bear the resemblance of an army tank training course. Mounds of earth now spoil the scene and trenches scar the land. Mrs Morris added: "It is very sad to see what has happened to a landscape which took decades to achieve."

The committee's report for 1989-90 shows a big rise in complaints, from 1,633 to 4,658. Mr Blom-Cooper said that the figures were not surprising considering the increase in the service. There were 360,000 calls a week when the network started in 1986, compared with five million now, bringing in £4 million revenue. The number of lines increased from 16 in October 1986 to 300 in December 1990, operating 15,000 services at any one time. The committee has introduced a compensation scheme for children and one-to-one services, which paid out £270,000 in its first year, including a payment of £8,200 to a single parent whose son ran up a huge bill.

"Enforcement is a very big problem," Mr Blom-Cooper said. "We can advise that a line is cut off because it breaches our code of practice but you can pull the line on some operators today and the same people re-emerge under another guise the next day. Given the huge number of lines we are powerless to cover them all and continued vigilance is needed."

Valerie Howarth, a member of the committee and director of Childline, the free national helpline for children, said she was particularly concerned about services aimed at children. In future, promotional material aimed at children must contain a warning that the calls are expensive. Callers should have their parents' permission and there should be no direct appeals to children to buy products.

Work on the creation of two golf courses has been halted and the once verdant acres now bear the resemblance of an army tank training course. Mounds of earth now spoil the scene and trenches scar the land. Mrs Morris added: "It is very sad to see what has happened to a landscape which took decades to achieve."

Leading article, page 15



Heseltine: food can no longer be the main aim

Race case follows Gulf war

An avionics foreman for British Aerospace who is claiming that he was racially discriminated against by his employers because of an increase in security during the Gulf war takes his complaint to an industrial tribunal today.

Syed Ali Jaffrey, aged 32, who works at BAe's plant in Prestwick, Strathclyde, claims that he was considered a security risk and faced the choice of continuing to work but being searched, or staying off with pay until the end of the war. Mr Jaffrey, who lives in Tarbolton, Strathclyde, came to Britain from Pakistan 14 years ago and is a British national.

Customs choice

The appointment of Sir Brian Unwin, chairman of HM Customs and Excise, as the first British president of the Customs Co-operation Council, the worldwide customs governing body, will be officially announced today.

Pilot remanded

John Wright, aged 41, a helicopter pilot whose aircraft crashed in Staffordshire last June, was remanded by Stafford crown court until July 22. Mr Wright, of Clechonger, Hereford, denies two charges of manslaughter.

Rare find

A £6,000 flood protection scheme to strengthen the banks of the river Otter in Devon has been suspended until August after the work endangered a sand-martin's nest.

Tests for all

All motorists involved in road accidents attended by Dumfries and Galloway police are to be breathtested. The force already offers a freephone service for the public to report drinking drivers.

Mother guilty

A mother-of-five has been given an absolute discharge by a judge at Reading crown court after being found guilty of trying to abduct two of her children, aged six and ten, who were in care.

Ex-mayor jailed

John Moore, aged 51, a former mayor of Northwich, Cheshire, has been jailed for six years by Knutsford crown court after pleading guilty to two charges of unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl. Three other charges were dropped.

Arts bosses turn their skills to the art of fund-raising

BRITAIN'S arts administrators are learning to tap a seam of money that could bring them millions of pounds: fund-raising.

Representatives of organisations as varied as the Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Ballet, the West Midlands Arts Centre and the Imperial War Museum will be at Birmingham's Metropole Hotel today for the second annual national fund-raising convention.

This fund-raising is not corporate sponsorship but a personal appeal to individual arts lovers.

Stephen Lee, director of the institute of charity fund-raising managers and an organiser of the three-day conference, said: "There is a latent potential for enormous fund-raising activity in all arts companies, from community groups to major national companies."

"They are good at making crisis-based appeals, such as the Young Vic's (which raised £100,000 in six weeks last summer), but they have to

translate the raw material they have, such as mailing lists, into a traditional, established donor base."

Perdita Hunt, sponsorship director for the Arts Council, said: "Arts organisations are waking up to the value of individual giving. Computerised box office systems enable us to identify, pursue and look after potential donors."

The government's gift aid system of tax breaks introduced last year is helping, but its threshold of £800 is often too high for individuals.

Last year English National Opera set up a unit to deal with individual donations. The first project was a direct appeal to the audience from the stage to finance its current production of Shostakovich's

Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk. It raised £87,600. "They want to give, but they want to give to a project," John Nickson, ENO's development director said. This year £150,000 will come from fund-raising, with £500,000 in 1994 as the aim.

The Royal Opera House has had some fund-raising success and the Victoria and Albert Museum started its patrons scheme in April as a long-term project to create a club of potential donors.

Among organisations represented at today's conference are the Royal Armories, which needs £35 million to pay for the collection's move to Leeds, and the Albert Hall, which is expected to announce an £80 million redevelopment plan.

But the richest untapped seam is legacy, and law firms are being encouraged to become friends of arts organisations so they can pass the word to their often cash-poor but asset-rich clients.

Arts, page 13

Isolated farmers get taste of power

By PETER DAVENPORT

IN THE low-beamed kitchen of Tennant Gill farmhouse high in the Yorkshire Dales, Ann Cowperthwaite yesterday celebrated the arrival of unlimited electricity with an elaborate lunch for 30 people.

For the past 10 years she has had to run her home and family of three boys on power supplied by a noisy, expensive diesel generator for only a few hours each night.

An experimental mini-hydro system, powered by the stream that rushes off the surrounding fells and pass their farmyard, has been installed by Nottingham university engineers working with the charity Intermediate Technology, which normally develops systems for Third World communities. It is a joint venture with the National Trust.

The water power system has been designed for use in isolated villages in parts of the Himalayas but is being used in the Dales in a two-year experiment. Yesterday Mrs Cowperthwaite, aged 38, was in little doubt about the benefits it had already brought. "My life is now completely different. I

can actually see to make the sandwiches and the children can watch television in the daytime. I'm not sure that's progress but at least we know where to find them now."

"I can also do my vacuuming in the daytime and when we go out at night we can plug in the electric blanket so the bed is warm when we come home. It's lovely." Ann and her husband Bill, also 38, are tenant farmers on the 800-acre Tennant Gill Farm on the National Trust's Malham

Tarn estate, near Settle, with a flock of 600 sheep and 30 suckler cows. They have three sons, Ian, aged 12, Robert, ten, and Stephen, seven.

The mains supply line ends more than a mile from the farmhouse and it would cost around £40,000 for a connection. Beforehand, the family had electricity only at night when the diesel generator was switched on, and a limited back-up supply from batteries. The diesel generator was too expensive to run around the clock.

Mr Cowperthwaite said: "I reckon the new system will save us around £800 a year, and in hill farming, where the difference between profit and loss is on a very fine line, that is a real benefit."

He can now use power tools for jobs around the farm during the day instead of having to wait until night time. The new system also lights outbuildings. Water to power the system is syphoned off Tennant Gill on the moors behind the farmhouse and is then piped 63 metres down to a small generator house built by

workers on the National Trust's employment training scheme.

In place of a high-tech turbine a waterpump has been reversed so that it is driven by water rather than driving the water. An adapted electric motor is used instead of an expensive generator, and, with the help of a simple electronic controller, the farm now enjoys a steady supply of power.

The one and a half metres of rain that falls every year on Tennant Gill Farm, more than twice the national average, makes it an ideal site for the new system.

Adam Harvey, of Intermediate Technology's micro programme, said: "The system at Tennant Gill differs from existing systems currently operating in the UK in that it is designed for production and maintenance by the communities where they are used."

The system costs around £6,000 to install but once perfected it is estimated that further schemes will realise one kilowatt of power per £1,000 spent.



Cowperthwaite: "My life is completely different"



Blom-Cooper: continued vigilance is needed

Baker re appeal sentence

Banned call lines restart despite watchdog

By RAY CLANCY

MORE than 350 chatline, adult entertainment and other telephone information lines were removed or amended last year, the industry's regulatory body announced yesterday. However, it admitted it could not stop banned operators starting again with a different name and number.

Louis Blom-Cooper QC, chairman of the independent committee that supervises the standards of telephone information services, which have an annual revenue of about £200 million, said legislation would be needed to stop services such as sex lines; that was not the job of the committee.

Many customers could now have their telephones altered to prevent premium rate dialling, he said, but publicity about this service was not widespread enough. Children running up huge bills on their parents' telephones, adult sex lines and advertising to persuade children to use competition lines and buy products were the most common complaints. One in four related to recorded messages being misleading, illegal, inaccurate or pornographic. Other services such as weather lines, Stock Exchange information and sports results did not attract criticism.

The committee's report for 1989-90 shows a big rise in complaints, from 1,633 to 4,658. Mr Blom-Cooper said that the figures were not surprising considering the increase in the service. There were 360,000 calls a week when the network started in 1986, compared with five million now, bringing in £4 million revenue. The number of lines increased from 16 in October 1986 to 300 in December 1990, operating 15,000 services at any one time. The committee has introduced a compensation scheme for children and one-to-one services, which paid out £270,000 in its first year, including a payment of £8,200 to a single parent whose son ran up a huge bill.

"Enforcement is a very big problem," Mr Blom-Cooper said. "We can advise that a line is cut off because it breaches our code of practice but you can pull the line on some operators today and the same people re-emerge under another guise the next day. Given the huge number of lines we are powerless to cover them all and continued vigilance is needed."

Valerie Howarth, a member of the committee and director of Childline, the free national helpline for children, said she was particularly concerned about services aimed at children. In future, promotional material aimed at children must contain a warning that the calls are expensive. Callers should have their parents' permission and there should be no direct appeals to children to buy products.

Work on the creation of two golf courses has been halted and the once verdant acres now bear the resemblance of an army tank training course. Mounds of earth now spoil the scene and trenches scar the land. Mrs Morris added: "It is very sad to see what has happened to a landscape which took decades to achieve."

Leading article, page 15

supports all Riffine

Baker rejects judges' appeal to end life sentences for murder

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE home secretary appeared to be heading for a collision with the senior judges yesterday when he rejected their calls to end mandatory life sentences for murder.

Kenneth Baker said that to do so would undermine public confidence in the willingness and ability of the criminal justice system to deal with murder. On his advice, MPs voted down the proposal passed in the Lords, backed by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, to allow judges to determine the length of sentence. The vote was 236 to 158, government majority 78.

Mr Baker said: "The best and fairest system is the one we have now where the life sentence is fixed by law and

the responsibility then passes to the home secretary to decide how the sentence should be spent. That responsibility is part of the home secretary's general responsibility for the protection of the public, the preservation of the Queen's peace and the maintenance of public confidence in the criminal justice system."

He emphasised that a murderer's liberty was always at the disposal of the state. He added: "That is as it should be. A murderer released from a life sentence can be recalled at any time."

The Lords proposal, he said, would allow any penalty for murder from an absolute discharge upwards. He said: "One could imagine the outcry if a probation order was given for murder."

Responding to a backbencher's argument, he said: "One is here concerned with the confidence of the public, and the public out there, whose views on capital punishment for example are clearly known, would feel very let down if there was a weakening in the mandatory sentence for murder."

He added: "It is all very well to talk about mercy killings or so-called domestic murders, but the fact remains that in each case another person's life is intentionally taken away."

Support for the peers came from Roy Hattersley, shadow home secretary, who said the present system was "incompatible with the rules which ought to govern a free society — in which the judiciary and the executive are properly separated". He added that the Lords "proposed that a man or woman convicted of murder should receive a stipulated sentence in open court, that it should be subject to appeal and that a judicial tribunal should determine other questions of release."

He said: "They believe these three requirements were essential to the rule of law. I fear that the home secretary has not begun to refute the arguments that these changes are essential to the proper workings of an independent judicial system which is not over-ruled or over-ruled by ministers."

He accused the government of fearing to appear "soft" on murderers and of pursuing an irrational and deeply damaging course.

Michael Shersby, Tory MP for Uxbridge and parliamentary adviser to the Police

Poll tax jail 'is unfair'

DAVE Nellist, the left-wing Labour MP for Coventry South East, was involved in a bitter clash with the prime minister during question time yesterday over the poll tax.

Mr Nellist said that the former Guinness chairman, Ernest Saunders, would soon be eligible for release from an open prison after serving only ten months for the theft of £8 million while a constituent aged 71 was serving 60 days in a closed prison for non-payment of £300 poll tax.

John Major retorted: "The position of many people has been made far worse by the leadership he [Mr Nellist] gave in not paying the community charge."

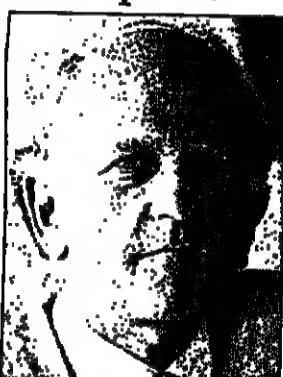


Flexible age to retire

John Major told the Commons yesterday that the government had been looking at the possibility of a flexible retirement age for men and women for some years. An early decision was unlikely.

Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Denton and Reddish, said during prime minister's questions that Britain was in danger of losing cases before the European court because it was discriminating against men and women. Some men, he said, wanted to retire before they were 65 while some women wanted to work on after 60.

New peers



Two new Labour peers were introduced in the Lords. Frank Judd (above), a former director of Oxfam, was introduced as Lord Judd, and Clive Hollick, a trustee of the Institute for Public Policy Research, as Lord Hollick.

Savings up

More than two million people invested over £5 billion in Tessa, the government-inspired savings plans in the first three months of their operation. Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, said.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions. Foreign Office. Debate on the European Community. Lords (2.30): Ports bill, committee.

EC supports us on rail, Rifkind says

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Rifkind, transport secretary, will allege tomorrow that a Labour government would jettison rail and road improvements to appease the transport trade unions.

In a three-pronged attack on Labour policy, Mr Rifkind is to tell Tory women that the Opposition's commitment to protecting British Rail's monopoly on train services would threaten moves towards breaking national railway monopolies throughout the European Community.

Speaking to the Conservative women's conference in London, the transport secretary will cite support from John Prescott, shadow transport secretary, for repealing trade union laws as heralding the return of politically inspired strikes on public services. He is also to assert that, in spite of Labour's policy of freezing the government's road expansion programme, two shadow cabinet ministers and some Labour backbenchers are lobbying him for by-passes and new roads.

The key plank of his attack

will be the unexpected backing from EC transport ministers last week for taking the first steps towards deregulating Community train services.

The outline agreement extends the right of access to EC railways by allowing European companies to run their own cross-frontier services throughout the Community from 1993. Mr Rifkind scored a success in getting strong backing for the directive against resistance from the French government which is committed to supporting the state railway, SNCF.

Companies running freight services using lorries and railways will also have access to the Community's rail system. With the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993, the agreement opens the way for firms to move freight by rail from Britain to any part of the Community without state-owned railway interference.

In his speech tomorrow, Mr Rifkind will say that Mr Prescott's rail commitment would lead to a Labour government reneging on the EC agreement.



Baker fears that public confidence may be undermined

Dog registration rebel clears way for bill

By JOHN WINDER

PROSPECTS for speedy passage of the dangerous dogs bill increased last night when Lord Stanley of Alderley, who led last year's Lords rebellion over a dog registration scheme, said that he would not introduce or support a similar scheme in the present bill.

Lord Stanley said that it was not the time to try to force the Commons to have registration. That would be unsuccessful and would prejudice eventual success in getting the government to concede the registration issue, as he was confident it would have to.

Earl Ferrers, Home Office minister, said that the government would be sympathetic to an amendment, if one were moved, to provide that exempted fighting dogs should not be under the control of people under about sixteen years in public.

He said that the government was still not persuaded that general dog registration would have helped to prevent any of the recent attacks by dangerous dogs. In America, the pit bull terrier had killed 34

people and it had proved impossible for full-grown adults to stop its attacks. It was in a class apart.

Discussions with interested parties on the exemption scheme for neutered and controlled fighting



Earl Ferrers: pit bulls are in a class apart

ing dogs were nearly complete and the order to introduce it, under the bill, would be published soon in draft.

The Home Office hoped to announce within a few weeks the appointment of the organisation that had tendered successfully for the running of the scheme.

The invitations to tender had emphasised the need to work closely with the police, Home Office, and other agencies in ensuring that the scheme worked. The owner who wished to exempt his dog would bear the full cost.

Lord Richard, for the Opposition, welcomed the main provisions of the bill, but said that it failed to address the problem of irresponsible ownership. Its approach smacked of concentration on headlines rather than a considered response to the views of experts. It was an opportunity missed. There might be a case for extending the third-party insurance provision for exempted dogs to all dogs.

Viscount Falkland (Lib Dem) supported the government's actions as far as they went, but his party could see no alternative to general registration.

Earl Antee (Ind SD) suggested national registration with a provision that dogs found that were not on the register should be kept for a specified number of hours and then destroyed.

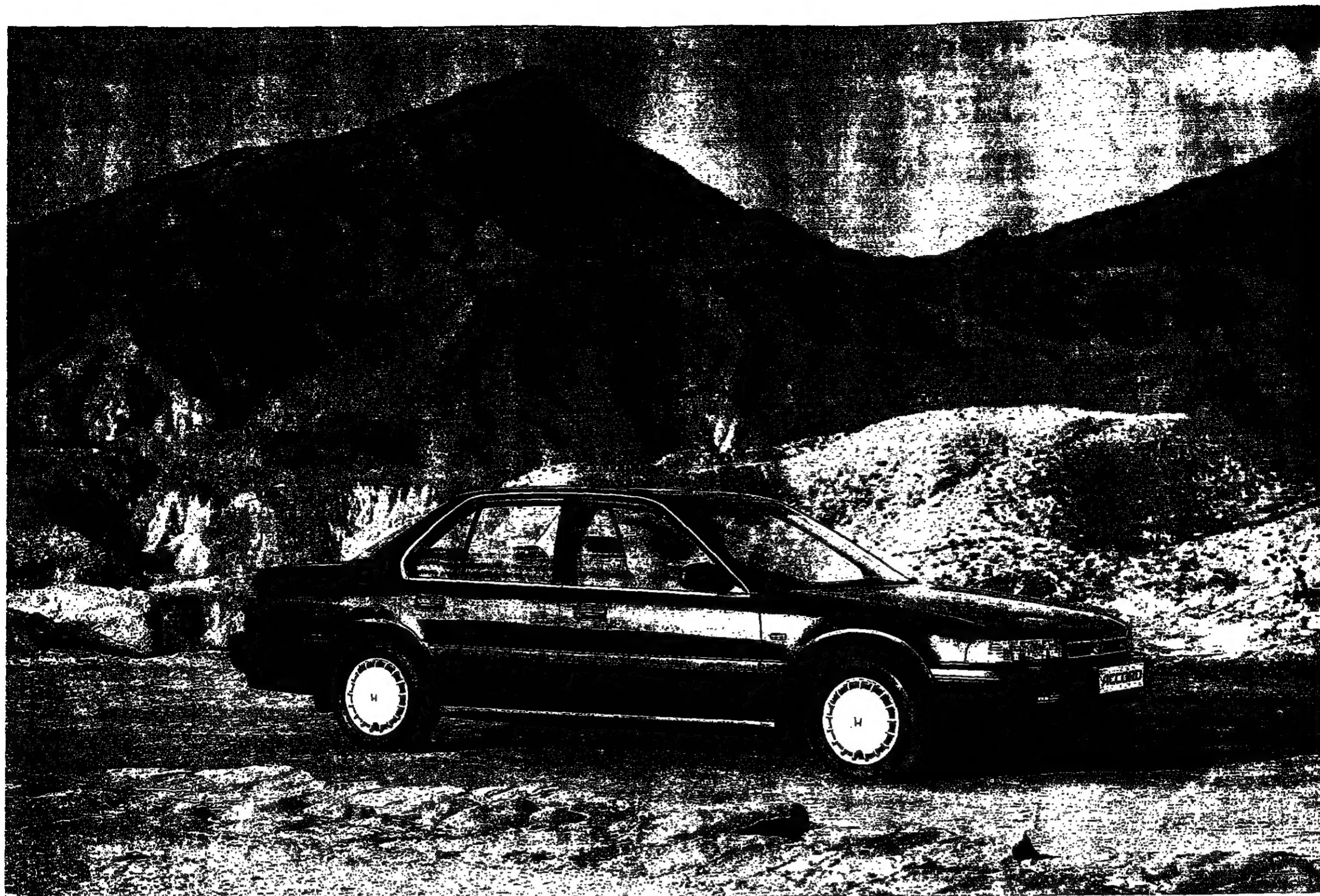
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Delors keeps Brussels guessing on hiring the removal van



Delors: has to be invited to stay on as president

THIS week's European Community summit in Luxembourg has a "hidden agenda" item: will Jacques Delors, so often vilified by the popular press in Britain, stay on for a third term as commission president beyond 1992 — and if not, who will succeed him?

Dutch newspapers reported yesterday that M Delors had denied he had any interest in extending his term as president. *De Volkskrant* said M Delors had told his aides in Brussels that he wanted to stand for election as the mayor of Bordeaux and would be preparing himself for the French presidential elections in 1995. Some EC observers had thought he might ask for his tenure to be prolonged so that he could oversee the establishment of the European single market and the completion of the process

of European monetary union. Dutch reports claimed M Delors, who has held the post since 1984, would like to be succeeded by Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister. Mr Lubbers, a Christian Democrat, has made no secret of his EC aspirations and is said to have the support of Britain, Germany and Belgium. However, he has repeatedly said that he will remain in office until the next Dutch general elections, scheduled for the end of 1994. Other prominent candidates to follow M Delors include Felipe González, the Spanish prime minister.

M Delors' staff yesterday refused to confirm or deny the stories of M Delors' impending departure. But his officials pointed out that in any case the decision lay in the hands of the EC's heads of government — and

The wily commission president may or may not be nursing domestic political ambitions, report George Brock in Brussels and Philip Jacobson in Paris

they will probably not make up their minds until their summit in Lisbon a year from now, at the end of Portugal's EC chairmanship in the first half of 1992, just before Britain takes over the rotating Council of Ministers' presidency.

What appears to have happened yesterday is that, faced with a direct question at a background briefing, M Delors answered in the only way he could — by sticking to the formal timetable. He cannot publicly apply to stay: the EC's leaders would have to invite him to do

so. So the Delors era might still be prolonged. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, whose views will carry weight because it is Germany's turn to supply a commission president, would like M Delors to stay for a couple of years. But a British Conservative government would almost certainly not support renewal.

Speculation that M Delors might run for the French presidency is more often heard in Brussels than in Paris. One French official said recently that M Delors would only become the socialist candidate if the party

opted for an "old sage". M Delors will be 69 by the time of the 1995 election.

M Delors has turned the often frustrating job of chairing the 17-member commission into one of the most coveted on the continent. Three prime ministers currently in power have declared, directly or indirectly, that they would like to succeed him. After seven years in which he has become the standard bearer for European federalism, M Delors may be a demon to the House of Commons, but on the Continent he is a superstar.

The reported decision to step down suggests strongly that M Delors is thinking about making a run for the French presidency when, as is generally assumed, the Mitterrand era ends with the expiry of the president's second term in 1995. The eight years in

Brussels have given M Delors high visibility and a respectable approval rating among French voters, while few of the other possible contenders, from the left or right, arouse great enthusiasm among the public.

With parliamentary elections due in France in 1993, M Delors may well feel that he should have his bid on the table before the Socialists embark in earnest upon what is likely to be a bruising contest for the presidency. As he will know, there are some sharp political elbows around already: Michel Rocard, the former prime minister, is considered a certainty to run; Laurent Fabius, president of the National Assembly, is generally regarded as President Mitterrand's chosen successor; and there are at least two other potential rivals on the left alone.

Britain sees social action programme as threat to jobs

From TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

MICHAEL Howard, the employment secretary, yesterday dismissed the European Commission's social action programme, which includes provision for a maximum 48-hour working week, as a danger to jobs in the community.

Britain regards the plan as an unwarranted intrusion into member states' internal affairs. Mr Howard said: "The most important social dimension of a single market is the

creation of jobs. The community shouldn't put into place laws and regulations that will damage jobs." He said Brussels was overregulating in an area that should be left to national governments.

His stance was immediately criticised in a statement from Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, who said the government faced total isolation on the social action programme. He said Mr Howard was "misrepresenting the

effect" of the commission's proposals, through its "own false interpretation".

Mr Howard's remarks bode ill for the European leaders' summit at the end of the week, at which John Major will be confronted with a revised Treaty of Rome draft incorporating much of the commission's aims in the social field.

Mr Howard said Brussels could legislate where workers' health and safety were definitely issues, but should leave employment and social security issues well alone. "They are an important part of the way we organise things and we don't think Brussels should tell us how to do that."

The ministers were not helped by the EC civil servants' strike, which meant that documents for their meeting were only available in French. A debate on just one clause on the commission's proposals for EC laws safeguarding the rights of pregnant women in the workplace thus took up most of the afternoon, with no result.

The maternity proposals are among the most complicated on the social action programme, and are "not in a sensible shape," Mr Howard said. He again suggested the commission should produce one directive based purely on the health and safety aspects of maternity.

He said it was reading too much into the situation to suggest there was any "machievellian intent" by the commission in pushing the more complex aspects of the social action programme to the fore, highlighting British isolation before the summit. French officials say their government regards the social aspects as among the most important of the treaty revisions.

Nonetheless, Mr Howard acknowledged that the parts of the social action programme the government can live with are not being dealt with soon enough. "I have repeatedly suggested there are aspects of the programme where we could make progress."

But he said that these do not include the commission's ideas on limiting the number of hours in a working week to 48, and banning any night shifts longer than eight hours. He said: "We shouldn't put into place laws and regulations that damage jobs."

The working time proposals were pushed off the day's agenda by the meeting's snail-like progress.

The lion and Emu, page 14
Letters, page 15

Plans could cost industry £3.5bn

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is opposed to about ten of Europe's social action proposals, especially on hours of work, the employment of pregnant women and consulting employees, which Michael Howard, the employment secretary, estimates altogether could directly cost British employers at least £3.5 billion.

The government's opposition to the European Community's social proposals was attacked by Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, yesterday. He argued that because of its "total isolation" on the issue, the government was now "making up" false claims

about the cost of the proposals. Britain was alone among EC members in December 1989 in voting against the social charter, the raft of employment proposals which Jacques Delors, the commission president, says is there "to provide a formal reminder that the community has no intention of sacrificing fundamental workers' rights on the altar of economic efficiency."

With the aim of ensuring such rights as Europe moves into the 1992 single market on trade, the charter was trans-

formed in November 1989 into the social action plan — about 50 separate proposals, including several legally binding directives. Britain is happy with the bulk of the proposals, mainly those relating to specific health and safety issues, but opposes the larger, more contentious issues.

The government measures all the EC proposals against basic criteria: will they help encourage economic growth, and especially job creation? Is action at the community level the right level? And do the proposals respect the diversity of national practices?

Among the many details of the proposals are:

□ Working time The EC, with particular support from France, is proposing that employers would not be allowed to require employees to work beyond a minimum rest period of 12 hours per day — in effect, because of provisions on consecutive working, a ceiling on working more than 48 hours a week.

□ Pregnant women Among the proposals are rights to 14 weeks' paid maternity leave at 100 per cent full pay, and an obligatory two weeks' paid leave before an expected birth.

□ Consultation Companies operating in more than one EC country, with more than 1,000 employees in total, would if requested by their employees have to establish a European-wide works council as a means of consulting and informing their workers.

Mr Howard has pressed especially hard on the costs of the EC's proposals, and has won agreement from Vasso Papanastasiou, the European employment commissioner, for future proposals to be more properly costed.

Source: EC survey

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Talking point: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, with Edith Cresson, the French prime minister, in Paris yesterday to discuss the EC summit

Playing the ostrich over EMU

In The Times' study of the draft EC union treaty, Anatole Kaletsky says Britain, obsessed with federalism, appears to be ignoring economic sovereignty issues

JOHN Major will fight with all his might this weekend to expunge the word "federal" from Luxembourg's draft treaty on European union. But while the prime minister rages over a single word in the preamble to the draft treaty, he seems to be ignoring the far more important and fundamental issues raised by the 18 extremely detailed clauses on economic and monetary union (EMU) in the confidential draft.

These draft clauses seem to ride roughshod over the many fundamental objections to transferring economic sovereignty to Europe stated by Britain since the negotiations on political and economic union began. The Treasury said yesterday that the draft treaty on EMU was "not

acceptable to the UK as it would extend the community's powers over national economic policies far beyond the purely monetary issues which have dominated the debate over EMU in Britain. And they would do this in a way which might not be ameliorated by a special "British clause", allowing any country to opt out of a single Euro-currency when the final stage of EMU arrives.

Luxembourg's draft clauses conflict with Britain's publicly stated positions in at least four areas of fundamental importance: Europe's authority over national fiscal policies; the role and political accountability of a new European central bank; the timing of the transitional stages leading up to full economic union; and the redefinition of the European currency unit, the ecu.

Yet the draft treaty fails even to acknowledge the British position on any of these points, or even to note that a difference of opinion exists among member countries. By contrast, the few remaining areas of disagreement between France and Germany are acknowledged with footnotes and alternative draft texts (known as "square brackets" in the Eurocratic jargon).

Fiscal policy is the most important area of fundamental disagreement between Britain and the emerging consensus in Europe. The Luxembourg draft would give the European Council an ultimate authority over national fiscal policies, ultimately backed up by appropriate penalties, all to be decided by qualified majority, not unanimous votes.

Britain has stated repeatedly that even if it agreed to join a monetary union, it did not see any need for binding fiscal rules to be established by Europe, and the Treasury repeated yesterday that it was "opposed to any binding fiscal rules". Yet the chances of the offending clauses being deleted from the Treaty seem minimal, since Germany has insisted on budgetary limits, backed up by legal authority, as a condition for joining any economic union with such perennial deficit spenders as Italy and Greece.

The second main bone of contention is the role of the new central bank. The Luxembourg draft makes unmistakably clear another crucial principle: the central bank must be a condition for any progress towards EMU. The new European central bank would exercise complete control over interest rates and monetary policy throughout Europe, and would do this with no formal accountability to national governments, the European parliament or any other political institution.

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Britain and the emerging consensus in Europe. The Luxembourg draft would give the European Council an ultimate authority over national fiscal policies, ultimately backed up by appropriate penalties, all to be decided by qualified majority, not unanimous votes.

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Members agree tax blueprint

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community has agreed a 12-country tax framework which should allow the abolition of many frontier controls before the single market deadline at the end of next year. But the cliff-hanger meeting, which ended four years' bargaining, left most member governments puzzled and resentful over Britain's policy.

Norman Lamont, the chancellor, said that no British tax rate would change but that agreement would allow the EC to abolish trade barriers and to complete the single market. The European Commission, which is overseeing the lowering of trade barriers, has long considered a package deal on VAT and excise duties to be a vital part of the consumer freedoms promised after 1992.

By resisting a demand that the EC set a binding minimum rate of VAT, Britain enforced a compromise by which all 12 states declare that they will not reduce VAT rates below 15 per cent, and the three governments with rates below that will raise them to 15 per cent or above.

Standard VAT rates across the EC are: Belgium, 17.19; Denmark, 25; France, 18.6; Germany, 14 per cent; Greece, 18; Ireland, 21; Italy, 19; Luxembourg, 12; Netherlands, 18.5; Portugal, 17; Spain, 12; UK, 17.5.

Gorbachev meets Harvard adviser

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday spent more than an hour discussing world economics with Graham Allison, the Harvard professor involved in drafting the so-called "Grand Bargain" plan for Western help for the Soviet Union.

Professor Allison was making an unannounced trip to Moscow, where work is in progress on amalgamating the "Grand Bargain" plan with the Soviet government's more narrowly focused "anti-crisis programme". The combined document, which will include elements of last year's Soviet economic report by the International Monetary Fund, is expected to form the basis of President Gorbachev's submission to the London summit of the Group of Seven in July.

Senior Soviet officials have denied that Mr Gorbachev will be asking for money at the summit, insisting that he intends rather to present a new

concept of broad and mutually advantageous cooperation between the Soviet Union and the West. Yesterday's Kremlin meeting was described by Vitali Ignatenko, the president's press spokesman, as a "serious intellectual and theoretical discussion on ways of combining developments in the world economy with what is happening in our country".

The idea that the Soviet Union might co-operate with international financial institutions and the Group of Seven, was apparently broached first late last year, when Mr Gorbachev's round of autumn visits abroad yielded only small sums in credits and government guarantees. Mr Primakov, who was also a presidential envoy during the Gulf conflict, investigated the possibilities, and it was he who briefed Mr Yavlinsky before the G7 specialists' meeting two months ago.

The idea that the Yavlinsky programme and the govern-

ment's anti-crisis programme might be combined has met with disapproval by both sides. Yesterday, Mr Ignatenko said that there were only two divergences of principle between the two programmes. One related to the speed at which the rouble could be made convertible, the other on how the Soviet economy could best be stabilised, meaning restoring the long-lost balance between money and available goods.

Mr Ignatenko said: "We won't be admitted to the G7 at this meeting, but in future we shall try to ensure that it becomes the G8." Within two to three years, he said, "we could enjoy quite a different status." He also emphasised the unacceptability of political or any other conditions. He specifically discounted the possibility that Moscow would be required to halt assistance to Cuba. This was seen as an attempt to keep conservative critics quiet.



Primakov: investigated economic links with G7

WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Bending to the plastic revolution

THE plastic revolution reached the shattered economies of post-communist Europe yesterday when American Express announced that it would be issuing its credit cards to ordinary Poles with enough money in the bank. "That will do nicely, sir," has no precise translation in Polish, but the credit card staff, trained by British instructors, are working on a suitable formula. The first automatic cash dispenser in the East was installed in Warsaw yesterday, attracting a bemused audience.

"You mean you can get money for nothing?" asked a middle-aged woman, only slightly missing the point. Juergen Aumüller, the president of American Express Travel in Europe, said that by the end of the year some 1,000 hotels, res-

taurants and shops would have signed up with the card company in Poland. Credit cards, meanwhile, would be issued to individual Poles who have dollar accounts and when the Polish currency became fully convertible to all solvent Poles who are interested in payment by plastic.

The transformation of the workers of Eastern Europe into Western-style consumers is advancing apace. As profits can now be fully repatriated under a new Polish investment law, there are no serious obstacles to the Western giants moving in. The result has been a riot of brand names and of competitive advertising.

Pepsi-Cola is to spend \$60 million (£37 million) over the next five years on the bottling plant of its

Polish partners, while Coca-Cola has launched a \$50 million programme. Unilever is spending \$20 mil-

lion to buy an 80 per cent stake in the Polena detergent factory. McDonald's is opening in Warsaw and

Prague, and Heinz is considering setting up a baked beans factory in Poland.

But the quickest returns are from the new Western luxury outlets. Christian Dior is already in the main shopping boulevard in Warsaw, while a Mercedes and Porsche dealership has been set up in a shop that once sold army uniforms.

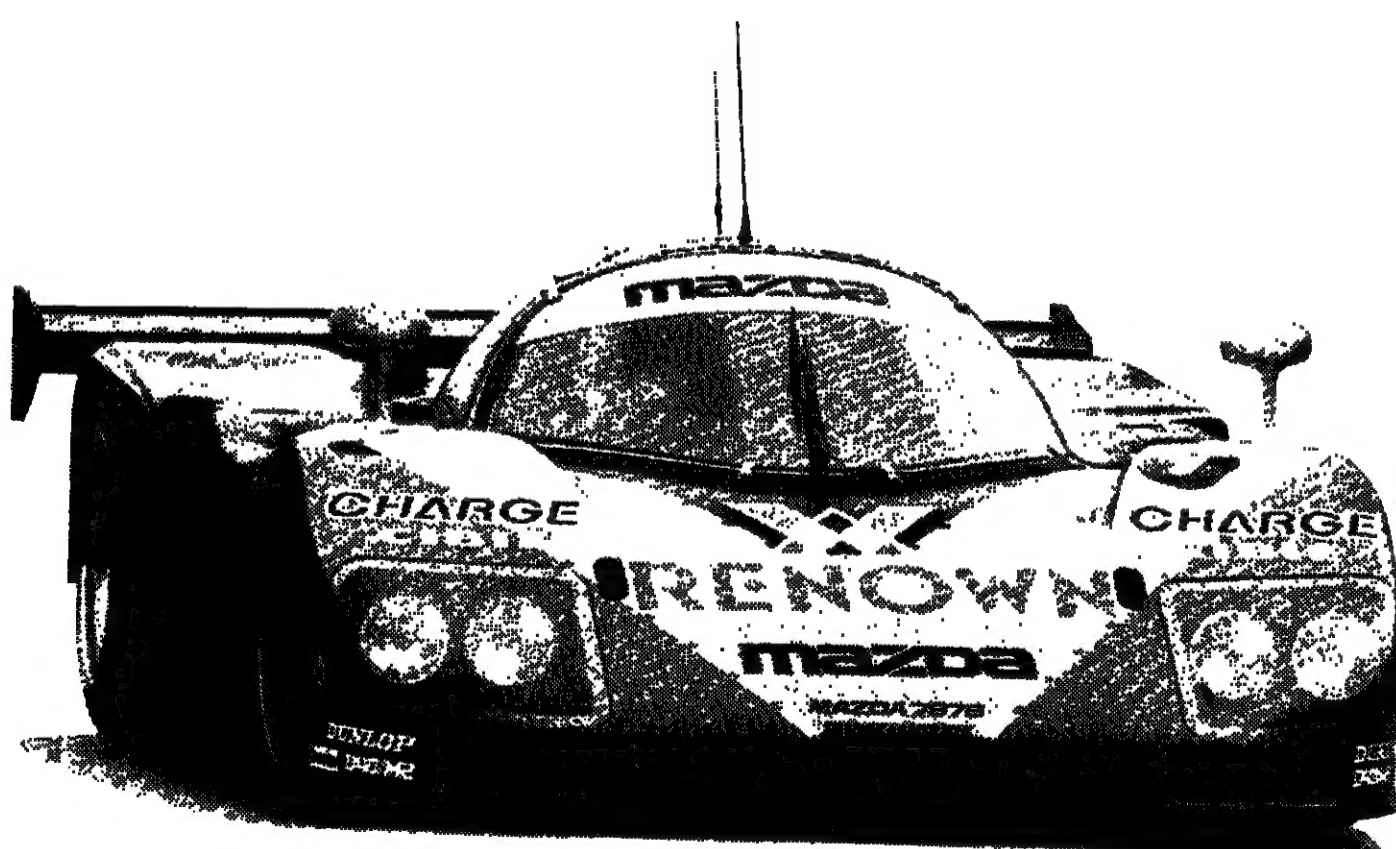
Poland's new rich will benefit in the first instance from the credit card invasion. The magazine *Wprost*, which produces a list of the 100 richest Poles every year, used to mention mainly emigrants who had made good in America and Western Europe. The latest list, however, shows that some 80 per cent — all dollar millionaires — made their fortunes in Poland.



We're Poles apart from the credit card set.

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(Porsche, Mercedes, Jaguar and Peugeot also ran.)



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مكتبة الامم

(Croatia)

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Croatia and Slovenia threaten to tear apart Yugoslav federation

Rebel republics announce break with Belgrade

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE republics of Slovenia and Croatia proclaimed their independence from the rest of Yugoslavia last night in the first breakaway from the Balkan federation since it was created in 1918.

The Croatian parliament overwhelmingly adopted a declaration of independence and "dissociation" from Yugoslavia that annulled most federal laws on its territory. Slovenia also proclaimed itself an independent state last night. Both republics made their move a day earlier than expected.

Slovenia said it would take over federal powers on its soil and gradually sever all ties. Croatia's move will have less immediate impact and it will

remain part of Yugoslavia. The moves are likely to cause deep concern in Europe. The European Community agreed on Sunday not to recognise any declaration of independence by Slovenia or Croatia and to freeze contacts with leaders of the breakaway republics.

Yesterday's independence legislation was rushed through the parliaments a day after Ante Markovic, Yugoslavia's federal premier, argued that the breakaway would lead to isolation and trigger a civil war. The Croatian parliament, however, remained unmoved. Its speaker, Zarko Domljan, rebuffed Mr Markovic's warning when he said yesterday that the two repub-

lics would simultaneously adopt their declarations of independence. The move may have been brought forward by a day because Croatia wished to throw off balance the federal government and Serbia, both of which firmly oppose the break-up.

Croatia was last night anxious to play down its secession, for fear of provoking its minority Serbian population, which was already alarmed and ready to retaliate by speeding up its own secession. Confusion remained yesterday about the extent of Croatia's independence. It was unclear whether it was formally breaking away or just laying the legal basis for dissociation.

A senior adviser to the Croatian president said the move would enable Croatia to start new negotiations on forming a community of sovereign states. Croatia may continue talking to the other five republics about an accord for a confederal alliance of sovereign Yugoslav states.

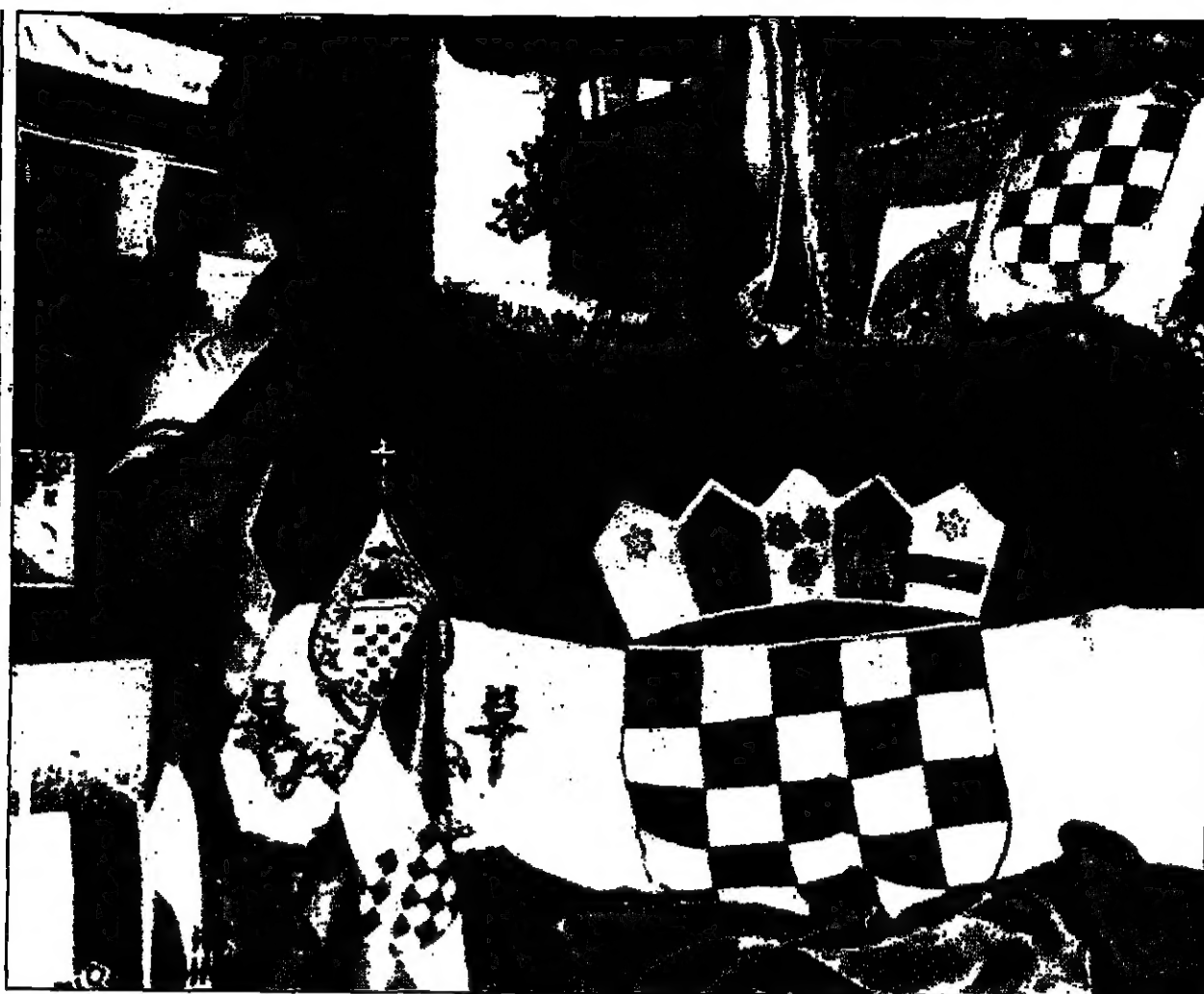
The federal public prosecutor said that the unilateral act to secede was a criminal act that jeopardised the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia. In a similar vein Vlado Kambovski, the federal justice minister, described it as a unilateral act with no legal value, saying that all federal institutions had to take steps to protect the country's territorial integrity. Budimir Loncar, the Yugoslav foreign minister, was asked to inform foreign governments of the situation, which Yugoslavia's federal institutions regard as illegal.

Slovenia invited foreign ambassadors accredited to Yugoslavia to attend its independence ceremony, but the invitation was declined. Unlike Slovenia, which has set up border posts, Croatia will not follow suit. Whereas Slovenia, being ethnically compact, can patrol the borders with Croatia, Croatia is burdened by a volatile Serbian minority.

Slovenia proposes a two-year term for the Yugoslav federal armed forces to pull out, while Croatia leaves this matter open. In the meantime, Croatia is arming its own military force that its commanders say could swell to at least 200,000 men in a matter of hours if necessary.

Yesterday's proclamations reduce still further any chance of a compromise plan for Yugoslavia's future as a semi-federal association of sovereign states.

Leading article, page 15



Flag day: a man displaying the Croatian flag and other national souvenirs (above), in Zagreb, as Croatia and Slovenia announced independence from the Yugoslav federation yesterday. The white, blue and red flag of Slovenia (below) carries its coat of arms, with three golden, six-pronged stars. The shield is lined in red



Quiet build-up to big break

FROM TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA

PREPARATIONS at the last minute were being made in Ljubljana yesterday afternoon as Slovenia brought forward plans for independence, originally scheduled for today. The Slovene parliament was to have met today to pass the necessary constitutional act. However, in a surprise move paralleling that of Croatia, the session was brought forward and due to begin yesterday evening.

While moves to independence accelerated, there were few signs of celebration or excitement on Ljubljana's streets yesterday, but a brass band was rehearsing the national anthem in the city's central Liberation Square. The anthem, called *The Toast*, is an old Slovene drinking song and appears to encapsulate Slovenia's more relaxed attitude to life and its determination to be free of Belgrade.

There are fewer than two million Slovenes and their language is distinct from the Serbo-Croat spoken to the south. Habsburg land since the 16th century, Slovene consciousness and national identity only began to emerge in the late 18th century and the first demands for the unification of Slovene territory only came at the time of the 1848 revolution.

With far fewer rights and privileges than the Croats under the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Slovenes initially supported the idea of a unified

state for the southern Slavs - Yugoslavia - and after the second world war, it was Tito's army that secured the formerly Italian territories in the hinterland of the Italian port of Trieste. This also gave the Slovenes access to the sea. Today, Slovenes admit that despite independence, they are ready to entertain the idea of the Yugoslav federal army remaining on their territory, beyond their proposed withdrawal date of 1993 because they fear the Italians.

Most Slovenes back independence because they see the rest of Yugoslavia, particularly Serbia, as impeding moves to a market economy and their prosperity. They are also keen to leave a country beset with violent ethnic conflicts from which they are free. Lojze Peterle, the Slovene prime minister, used a culinary metaphor to outline the reason for independence: "We are hostages in Yugoslavia which is like a pressure cooker. Everyone is scared to open it and release the evil spirit, but we believe that it should be opened because otherwise we will be boiled until the end."

Slovenes will have neither new passports nor new money this morning and the people of Ljubljana are taking a remarkably nonchalant attitude to the break with Belgrade. "We've been counting down to this," said Tina, a student aged 17, "but we don't think we'll be in heaven."

Money matters bind sour marriage

Roger Boyes looks at the reasons why the bitterness between Yugoslavia's republics may not lead to a costly divorce this week

YUGOSLAVIA this week faces its most decisive moment with both Slovenia and Croatia straining for independence and ready to break away. Unless the Yugoslav army intervenes, there will be no overnight disintegration of the country that has muddled through since 1918.

The reason is plain. Beyond the wound-up emotions and ethnic enmities of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, there is a sober economic reality that condemns the country to some form of commonwealth, customs union or confederation. Yugoslavia is a sour marriage that survives for the sake of the children.

Slovenia has profited from its proximity to Austria and Germany to become the wealthiest of Yugoslavia's republics. With only eight per cent of the population, Slove-

nia still contributes 20 per cent to the gross national product. Yet, despite the confidence of its officials on the eve of independence, it stands little chance alone. In Belgrade, where goods made in Slovenia are priced out of the shops by a politically inspired customs tariff, Serbs search in vain for the soft lavatory paper produced in Ljubljana, the Slovene capital. Serbian paper, by contrast, is as rough as gravel. The Austrian toilet-tissue market, meanwhile, is saturated with perfectly adequate homemade or German paper: there is no side for the Slovenes. Divorce will be costly. Both

Slovenia and Croatia are ready to pay their dues to the federal budget if agreement is reached on making Yugoslavia into a loose confederation. But in return they want a trimmed-down federal bureaucracy, curbs on the army budget and fewer industrial subsidies. More than half of Slovenia's revenue last year (about £3 billion) was put aside for the federal budget and this year it is paying less than ten per cent to Belgrade. The advantage of independence would be cancelled out by the need to repay Yugoslavia's share of Yugoslavia's hard currency debt of \$9.2 billion.

Like the Slovenes, the Croats have similar hopes for aligning themselves with the Austrian economy and rising on Vienna's coat-tails into, or close to, the European Community. But Croatia's economy is sickly. If the personal cost of Slovene independence is a 30 per cent drop in living standards, then the fall will be much steeper for Croatia, where privatisation is proceeding at an even more sluggish pace.

To survive economically the independent republics would need fully fledged Western assistance, and this is not on offer. Zagreb and Ljubljana are fond of mocking Ante Markovic, the federal premier, as an "illusionist" for trying to introduce a nationwide market revolution in Yugoslavia. But they, too, are peddling illusions.

Zimbabwe drops marxist ideology

Harare - Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu (PF) party decided at the weekend to abandon its ideologies of marxism, leninism and scientific socialism (Jan Raath writes).

President Mugabe was quoted as saying that "strong views" had been expressed that the party should change its policy, and that it had also been argued that as radical leftism was being cast aside all over the world, "there was no reason why we should continue to stick to it".

Sources present at the meeting said that the central committee had decided that references to "marxism-leninism" and "scientific socialism" should be deleted from the party constitution, and Mr Mugabe had agreed to the change.

Train killings

Johannesburg - Three women and two men were shot dead and a third man died jumping from a carriage when gunmen opened fire on a packed commuter train between Soweto and Johannesburg. Eighteen people were hurt in the latest attack designed to disrupt South African peace initiatives.

Cuban 'plotters'

Havana - Two Cuban doctors, Julio Bientz Saah, aged 42, and Julian Arana Rosainz, aged 35, went on trial charged with plotting to assassinate President Castro by blowing him up with dynamite. Two other doctors were accused of a lesser charge of "enemy propaganda". (Reuters)

Chemical target

Seoul - North Korea has completed the installation of 48 long-range artillery guns at the Korean border, 30 miles north of Seoul, capable of hitting the South Korean capital with chemical weapons, the newspaper *Segye Ilbo*, which has been authoritative on intelligence matters in the past, said. (AP)

Republic vote

Sydney - Australia's ruling Labor party plans to hold a referendum on making the country a fully independent republic in 2001 and ending all constitutional ties with Britain. The constitutional monarchy was described as "an irrelevancy" in the proposal, made at Labor's centennial congress in Hobart.

Colonel replaced

Port Moresby - Papua New Guinea is to replace Colonel Leo Nua, the head of military operations for the copper-rich island of Bougainville, which is attempting to secede, after he admitted dumping the bodies of executed rebels at sea. Colonel Nua will be replaced by Colonel Lima Datona. (AP)

Tokyo bounces back after scandal

By JOANNA PYTMAN IN TOKYO AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

AFTER the resignations of the presidents of two world-leading Japanese securities companies, it was business as usual on the Tokyo stock exchange yesterday. The Nikkei index, the traditional barometer of the country's business sentiment, rose more than 140 points.

Japan at large has expressed its ritual indignation and the matter seems to be already put aside. The reaction to Monday's shocking revelations of gangster-related activities and alleged illegal promises of compensation to clients by

Nomura Securities and Nikko Securities has highlighted the degree to which such practices are accepted in Japan.

The necessary huffing and puffing at the disgrace has been expressed at the highest levels. Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, yesterday instructed the finance ministry to investigate the securities industry and tighten controls.

Individual investors, who have suffered most from the diminishing value of the stock market, have expressed outrage at the scandal, but they carry little weight. However,

questions are beginning to be raised about the credibility of the finance ministry, theoretically the policeman of Japan's financial markets.

Many people believe, but few will publicly admit, that large Japanese institutions, the most important clients of large securities brokers, are given advance notice of the choicest stock tips and other forms of favouritism. Many of these dubious practices will be difficult to wipe out because of the long-term business relationships so fundamental to Japanese business.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, said yesterday that government measures against questionable dealings should not be affected by how foreign countries view the scandal. This is being interpreted as a "business as usual" message of reassurance to his friends in large corporations, many of whom donate generously to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The importance of the Nomura scandal centres on the fact that the company is now more powerful than any other bank in the world. Its support, or lack of it, for American debt can cause alarm at the White House. In 1987 Nomura and its main rival Daiwa bought 30 per cent of American government debt offerings, and while they could not actually bankrupt the US government, their support is essential to confidence.

The role of its founder, Tokutomi Nomura, before the turn of the century was to exchange rice for either the silver in which the western city of Osaka traded or the gold in which Tokyo did business. He was one of the brokers who set the price for the city which lives and breathes business: the familiar morning greeting is not "How are you?" but "How's business?"

In Tokyo, Nomura is the market as a result of a hard-driving, meticulously organised corporate culture that has caused Japanese competitors to nickname the firm Nomura, a Japanese borrowing of the English "norm" because every employee is set a target and driven to achieve it.

That determination brought peak revenues in 1987 of \$8.79 billion with at least 1,000 of its 15,000 employees worldwide able to claim they are dollar millionaires.

Peking threatens American companies

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

LI PENG, the prime minister, threatened to withdraw orders from American companies if the United States refused to renew China's most favoured nation status.

Mr Li reverted to bully-boy tactics at a dinner when he told Tom Lane, Boeing's chief representative in China and the guest of honour, that China had ordered 15 Boeings this year, a figure which Mr Lane later said was inaccurate. "If the most favoured nation status is revoked, they will have no more orders, and if the most favoured nation status is retained, they will have more orders coming."

The intervention from Mr Li comes amid criticism from congressmen that President Bush is being too soft on China. Mr Bush has said that he supports a retention of the most favoured nation status, while many American congressmen argue that it should be conditional on improvements in human rights, arms sales and trade negotiations. Mr Li erred again when he said that "President Bush and China share the same position" on the most favoured nation status, a comment which may embarrass Mr Bush.

Mr Lane said that after he had heard the speech he was surprised that he had been asked next to Mr Li. He said that he had been used as a "prop" by Mr Li as an example of business that would suffer. Boeing has called publicly for the status to be retained.

Colony fears airport delay

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

UNLESS Britain and China can resolve their differences within the next week or two, Hong Kong will be unable to go ahead with plans to open its proposed new airport before 1997, the colony's governor said yesterday.

After a meeting with John Major, Sir David Wilson said tenders for the first contracts were due to go out by the end of the month. "It is a very big project and we need to know if we are going to embark on it that we can carry it out sensibly and in good time."

Britain has so far failed to persuade China that Hong Kong will be able to afford the \$8 billion scheme. Lengthy talks between Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and the Chinese leadership ended in disagreement and continuing negotiations by diplomats have faced suspicion that Hong Kong will be left with large debts when the territory reverts to China in 1997. Sir David's visit to London



Sir David: tenders are due out by end of the month comes as China has increased demands that it should have a determining voice in the airport project as well as all other development that straddle 1997. Britain is adamant that it must exercise full sovereignty in Hong Kong until then, though it is willing to consult China on relevant issues. The deadlock has come at a bad time for Hong Kong. The new confidence the airport was supposed to give the bus-

ness community has evaporated. The legislative council is also fighting the continuing arrival of Vietnamese boat people, and so far Britain has made little headway with Vietnam over proposals for a holding camp to accept Vietnamese economic migrants who are forcibly returned.

Hong Kong's human rights record is also under scrutiny by the International Commission of Jurists, which has begun work to see whether the handover to China will protect the rule of law and human rights in Hong Kong. Britain is under pressure to abolish the death penalty. There are fears that otherwise Peking would carry out executions.

Britain now wants to make clear to Peking that it is not negotiating as a supplicant: it pushes too hard, London will not go ahead with the airport. The only hope for warmer relations may be if Britain finds more agreement with China on other issues, such as negotiations in the United Nations Security Council or policy over Cambodia.

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Kuwait bans Arab refugees' return from border camp

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ABIDJAN, KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER

HUNDREDS of ragged tents pitched in squalid conditions in the burning desert here are evidence that, in addition to the Kurds, the Gulf war has exacerbated another problem, the plight of the 180,000 stateless Arabs in Kuwait known as the *al-Bidoon* ("the withouts").

Long despised because they do not qualify under Kuwait's exclusive nationality laws, even though many are second or third generation born in Kuwait, the *Bidoon* have now been removed from their jobs on suspicion of collaboration

with Iraq. A number of the 29 people already condemned to hang in the post-war trials are from the group.

United Nations officials claim that at least 2,000 are stuck in this hellish border camp because they had temporarily crossed into Iraq and the Kuwaitis will not now let them return. Many are divided from their families.

Kuwait cites many cases where the *Bidoon*, officially known as the "nationality undetermined" group, did co-operate with the occupiers. But independent observers

claim that many more did not and provided over 70 per cent of the pre-war Kuwaiti army and police force.

"Most in the camp are women and children living in very grim conditions, apparently without any idea where they will go. They have family in Kuwait and do not want to go to Iraq," one UN official said. "Under our mandate, we have no power to look after them or even to provide them with medical help."

Before reporters were forced to leave the camp by angry Red Cross officials who threatened us with arrest by the Kuwaiti police, who are unhappy that the scandalous conditions should be published, we were able to speak to two of the inmates.

Diplomats in Kuwait, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that the *Abidjan* camp represented what one described as "the tip of the iceberg" of a humanitarian problem growing daily more explosive which many international organisations are choosing to ignore.

Miriam Isber, aged 23, who had been stranded at the border for five months, explained: "I was taking my children to hospital in Iraq and because I am a *Bidoon* the Kuwaiti police will not let me return. Please ask the world to tell me where I am going to live. I will die if I have to stay out in this heat much longer."

Often wrongly confused with the nomadic Beduin, the *al-Bidoon* are an assortment of people who failed to acquire passports when the chances were there.

It is known that many thousands of the *Bidoon* are Arabs who originally lost or hid their true identities in order to live and work in Kuwait. But a greater percentage have been excluded from nationality by Kuwait's laws, which are more like those for an exclusive club than for a modern state.

Emirate opts to end martial law

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

MARTIAL law in Kuwait is to be scrapped when it comes up for renewal today, according to Ghazi Obeid al-Sammar, the Kuwaiti justice minister. Kuna, the official news agency, quoted him as telling a London-based Kuwaiti newspaper: "The period of martial law in Kuwait will end tomorrow and will not be extended for another period."

A definitive announcement that the four-month period of military rule is over must come from the martial law administrator, Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the crown prince and a cousin of the emir. But Western diplomats and opposition leaders said they had no reason to doubt the pledge.

Leaders of the opposition remained sceptical that the promised change would make any great difference to the way in which Kuwait is now being administered as many of the martial law measures were written into the civil code and parliament, suspended in 1986, is not due to be re-elected until October next year. "As far as the press is

concerned, censorship still applies," said Abdallah Nibari, of the Kuwait Democratic Forum, a coalition of opposition groups which is planning a protest meeting next month. "Political activity, the distribution of leaflets and so on is still difficult. The only difference under martial law was that the penalties were more severe."

Mr al-Sammar also said that the outstanding trials of alleged collaborators with Iraq would be transferred to civilian courts. At least 200 are due to face charges. An end to military rule could give the judges more flexibility in the type of sentences imposed. The sentencing so far of 29 people to death plus numerous jail terms of up to 25 years has severely damaged Kuwait's post-war image.

Diplomatic sources said last night that the ruling al-Sabah family had come under heavy pressure from several countries, including the United States, Britain and France, to tone down the campaign mainly against the 200,000 Palestinians still in Kuwait.



Under fire: a man trying to douse a tear-gas grenade after Algerian riot police fired the gas and warning shots in Bab el Oued, a stronghold of the Islamic Salvation Front, as security forces tried to take down Islamic signs

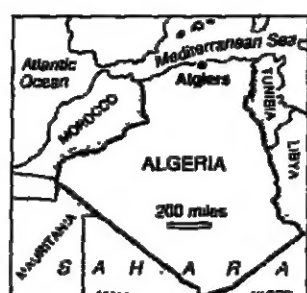
Fundamentalists riot in Algiers

FROM PENNY GIBBINS IN TUNIS

THE Islamic fundamentalist district of Bab el Oued in Algiers echoed to the sound of gunfire yesterday as police clashed with hundreds of rock-throwing fundamentalist youths whose eyes streamed from heavy clouds of tear gas used to try to disperse them.

The rioting started before dawn when police carried out a night operation in the area, arresting supporters of Algeria's Islamic party, the Islamic Salvation Front and removing signs put up at town halls they control after their victory in local elections a year ago.

The youths were also protesting at the many arrests of fundamentalists by the army since the beginning of the state of siege, declared by President Chadli Benjedid three weeks ago after more



brought hundreds of youths on to the streets to goad and insult the lines of police and to spray walls with their motto, "By God and for God". They set up makeshift barricades of overturned cars, garden gates and rubbish from which they hurled rocks at police.

People shut themselves in their homes or ran up side streets. Shops closed up as police retaliated with tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition, fired into the air. As the violence intensified, paramilitary police were brought in to replace the riot police who had borne the brunt of the initial clashes.

One witness said he could not leave his home all day because the air was so saturated with tear gas. People were shooting indiscriminately, he said. He had heard machinegun fire, and roadblocks had been erected everywhere. It was reported that

one person had been killed late on Monday night, and 12 others injured. No figures have yet been given for yesterday, but it is acknowledged that many people have been injured.

Fortified by the state of siege, the army, has been intensifying its search for groups of fundamentalists reported to be preparing for an armed struggle, and for weapons and explosives. The army has the authority to take over local councils run by the Islamic front, if it feels they are disrupting the smooth running of public services.

Although diplomats emphasised that these latest clashes were localised, rather than taking place throughout the city, they will be worrying to the new transitional government whose main job is to set up peaceful parliamentary and presidential elections before the end of the year.

UN to probe rights in Iraq

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations yesterday appointed a former Dutch foreign minister to investigate human rights in Iraq, but diplomats said they doubted whether Baghdad would co-operate.

Max van der Stoep, Dutch foreign minister from 1973-77 and 1981-82, was named as the UN Human Rights Commission's special rapporteur on human rights in Iraq. Diplomats said that he had been given the broadest possible mandate, including examination of the plight of the Kurds and the Shias. He is scheduled to make a report by next February.

UN human rights rapporteurs depend on the co-operation of the government under investigation. Iraq has an incentive to allow entry to Mr van der Stoep because his reports could, if positive, help persuade the security council to lift sanctions imposed on the country after its invasion of Kuwait.

But diplomats said that Iraq had voiced against the resolution calling for the appointment of a special rapporteur in March and refused to participate in a vote that confirmed it last month. A Western diplomat said: "They have not shown any indications that they wish to co-operate."

American diplomats have been lobbying in the UN Security Council to ensure that the highest possible percentage of Iraq's oil revenues are diverted into the special UN fund from which war reparations will be paid. The UN secretary-general has recommended that no more than 30 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues be used to pay war compensation, but Washington sought a ceiling of 50 per cent.

US diplomats now appear willing to accept the 30 per cent upper limit if they can obtain a "gentlemen's agreement" that Iraq's actual contribution in the first year of renewed oil production should be set somewhere close to that level.

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هذه امه الاصل

UN to probe rights in Iraq

Channel 3's licence to confuse

Naming the TV franchise winners will shed little light on what we will actually watch from 1993, Melinda Wittstock reports

Television viewers wondering what will be screened on Channel 3 in 1993 will not be much the wiser when the franchise winners are revealed in late October. Even a thorough investigation of the hundreds of pages of promises made by each bidder turns up very little in the way of clues. The potential licensees do know that they will not be able to guarantee that their promised dramas, comedies and current affairs programmes will materialise on the national network. Under the 1990 Broadcasting Act they are losing the right, held for 35 years, to schedule their own programmes.



'If a company has overbid, it will have to cut its contribution'
Greg Dyke

An independent central scheduler, hired by the consortium of 15 networks, will decide which programmes to buy and when to broadcast them, using criteria as yet unspecified. There are three further certainties. First, that the winners will have until the end of next January to agree a new central scheduling system which is acceptable both to the Independent Television Commission (ITC) and to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT). Second, that the system will be imposed if they cannot agree. And third, that they are unlikely to agree. Three months is not very long to establish the system by which ITV's decisive ratings lead over the BBC will be maintained or lost. The new licensees will have committed £3 billion to £4 billion



Arresting image: high-rating programmes such as *The Bill* may not be available to the network if their makers lose their licences

million a year to the licensees. "It would be madness," says Mr Hill, who talks of a "lean and efficient" central unit. But Linda Agran, Three East's programme director, says: "A staff of 30 could cope with it. Not all 800 independents will pitch at the same time." The Independent Programme Producers' Association (IPPA), claiming backing from the OFT, does not accept the ITC's position that independent productions accepted by the central scheduler must be "fanned out" to relevant C3 licensees, so that the regulator

would have proper recourse if a programme fell foul of its codes. Fred Hasson, the deputy director of the IPPA, says he is determined to "break the master-servant relationship" between broadcasters and independents, and believes that the 15 networks could accept shared liability for the scheduler's decisions. The ITC, however, calls this unfair. The key to Channel 3's success will be the choice of the right central scheduler. ITV programme controllers and executives "golden-handcuffed" into contracts, such as Mr Dyke, Thames's David Elstein, or Granada's David Plowright, cannot

MANY journalists in America have been breathing more easily since a high court ruling that public figures cannot win damages in a libel suit simply if a writer has tampered with their quotes for effect. But writers received a warning that a reckless disregard for the truth can be libellous. The US Supreme Court's ruling last week seemed to appreciate the murky journalistic craft of how legitimately to clean up quotes that are clumsy in syntax and grammar. Many newspapers allow changes for the sake of elegance but would insist that the overall

sense is unaltered. Others require writers to break into reported speech for anything less than verbatim quotes. The case in question overturned a decision of a lower court that had allowed a suit by Malcolm Masson, a psychoanalyst, against Janet Malcolm, a profile writer for *New Yorker* magazine. Mr Masson had taken issue with several quotes attributed to him in two articles by Ms Malcolm after he lost his job as the director of projects at New York's Sigmund Freud Archives. Ms Malcolm said Mr Masson had described himself to her as an "intellectual gigolo" who would be remembered as "after Freud, the greatest analyst who has ever lived". She also

wrote, in her unflattering two-part 1983 profile, that Mr Malcolm said he planned to transform Anna Freud's home into "a place of sex, women and fun" after her death. Neither of the quotes appeared in the more than 40 hours of notes and interviews she had with her subject. Mr Masson said the remarks made him look ridiculous and that their falsity was sufficient to satisfy the exacting burden of proof faced by public figures who sue for libel in the United States. Since 1964, public figures have been required to prove that someone knowingly made a false statement about them or recklessly disregarded the truth. Ms Malcolm denied the quotes

When reporters make free with speech

The US Supreme Court has given its partial blessing to tampering with quotes

SUSAN ELLICOTT

MEDIA WATCH

Success story

TWO years before its 150th anniversary, *The Economist* goes from strength to strength. The magazine's annual report shows a circulation rise of 13 per cent, to 452,700, and profits up 11 per cent to £12.3 million. To satisfy demand in southern Europe, the paper will print from Switzerland from next month. (It already prints in Britain, The Netherlands, Singapore and the United States.) *The Economist* will announce the acquisition of a small trade publication next week.

On the House

ON MONDAY select committees on broadcasting in both Houses of Parliament will consider a short list of five companies seeking to televise proceedings for the next five years. At the moment coverage is split between Michael Braham's Broadcast Communications (which does the House of Commons), ITN (the House of Lords), and Commons Committee Television, headed by former BBC producer George Carey (the select committees). Now all three contracts are to be bundled together in a contract worth more than £600,000 a year for an independent producer.

No names

AMERICA'S Supreme Court has ruled that news organisations can be sued if they fail to protect a source who asks not to be named. The ruling revives a lawsuit by a Minnesota PR consultant, Sam Cohen, against the state's two largest papers. He alleges that, after promising him anonymity, they published that he had leaked information about a political opponent's criminal record.

Rocking Russia

TWO independent production companies, Holmes Associates and HTH, are enjoying audiences of more than 40 million after programmes they made for Channel 4, *Rock Steady* and *Friday at the Dome*, were repackaged for Russian Television and Radio in Moscow.

ANDREW LYCETT

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The Ramblers' Association expects a good turn-out from the buggy brigade next Sunday. Jane Bidder reports



The family who walks together: Maria and Martin Morris rambling in the countryside near their Oxfordshire home with their children (from left) Max, aged one, Frida, 10, Ulrika, six, and Hannah, 11

Next Sunday, Maria Morris and her husband Martin will dress their four children, aged from 13 months to 11 years, in gumboots and anoraks and lead a party of locals on a walk round their north Oxfordshire village. The two-and-a-half-mile stroll — one of 200 organised by the Ramblers' Association for Family Rambling Day — will not be difficult for the Morris family, for whom Sunday would not be the same without a four-hour amble in the surrounding woodlands and fields. "We put lunch in a very low oven, strap baby Max into a 30-year-old backpack, and meander along nearby footpaths, taking secateurs with us to cut down the undergrowth."

Mrs Morris grew up in a family where walking was a way of life. As a child in her native Sweden, her father would regularly wake her at 4am simply to go out and listen to the birds. After marrying her British husband, she has continued the tradition, undaunted by pregnancy or babies.

"It's a wonderful way of recharging one's batteries from the week, especially for my husband who, as a marketing executive, travels a lot," she says. "It also brings us closer to the children: in

a house where small children are constantly crying for attention, walking gives us time to develop those confidences you might not get at teatime."

The Ramblers' Association, which has 83,000 members, hopes the Morris family's enthusiasm will infect more young families, which is why it founded Family Rambling Day five years ago, offering guided walks of three to five miles specially geared for the buggy brigade. This year, national demand has increased the number of countryside routes by 25 per cent and there are many more inducements on offer, including scavenger packs for junior walkers, nature quizzes, teddy bear picnics, badger masks and lunch-time pub breaks.

Mrs Morris, who has become a local rural troubleshooter by standing up to abusive farmers

who do not appreciate public footpaths running over their land, believes that walking is one of the finest free occupations for the family, regardless of short legs and little voices that whine to go home.

"Of course you must gear your walk to the child: that's why we usually stick to local footpaths so we can return if necessary. We also have plenty of rests. We've only once had to turn back, and that was when we drove to a spot only to find the three-year-old's wellies weren't in the car."

The Morris, who get through three pairs of boots each a year, also take a generous supply of nappies and squash, besides trying to plan routes with surprises for the children to anticipate round each corner, rather than straight, boring fields. Even the weather does not dampen their dedication.

"Babies can easily be bundled up warmly, although we did have a rather frightening experience in Wales last Easter when we were nearly blown away by atrocious winds and got lost. We all huddled in a sheepfold for an hour or so and then, with the compass, found our way back."

Even older children such as Hannah, aged 11, can be keen: "She sometimes brings a friend on our walks and hasn't shown any signs of getting bored."

Adolescent boredom, admits Graham Butler, the Surrey area secretary for the Ramblers' Association, usually sets in about 13, although interest can resurface in the early twenties. "Teenagers develop a busier social life and, because of continual assessment at school, they have to spend more time on homework. Pushing them to come on a ramble

will only put them off even more." Despite this, Mr Butler's 14-year-old daughter Catherine, who was dragged along on family walks from the age of three months, says she was "encouraged" to continue until she finally rebelled this year by hanging up her walking boots. "There weren't many other ramblers of my age, and my friends laughed at me for continuing. My father was rather disappointed, particularly as my sister (who's now 12) rebelled when she was only seven."

Work commitments mean that Janet Butler rarely accompanies her husband on his twice-monthly, ten-mile walks, despite having met him through walking (clubs frequently act as informal marriage bureaux). But other families with slightly younger children, such as the Readers from Woking, in Surrey — who will also

be leading a local walk on Family Rambling Day — still manage to amble regularly — en masse. They have also founded the Half Pint Club for a dozen local young families, so called because of the size of the junior walkers and the size of drinks at the pub.

"We each take it in turn to plan routes near our homes so we can easily return if it's wet or the children are tired," says Gill Reader, whose children, Keith and Duncan, are aged nine and seven respectively. "We also make sure the routes are suitable for pushchairs, especially for one three-year-old who has spine bifida."

The Readers, who met during a British Rail rambling excursion, ensure their children wear long trousers to guard against thistles. So far, they have encountered no dangerous cows or dogs, although one mother, suffering from the heat, had to be revived with cold drinks by a sympathetic householder. Keith is just beginning to voice discontent, says his mother, although he enjoys walks "once he gets going. We'd never push him, if he really didn't want to go."

Details of Family Rambling Day routes throughout the country are available from the Ramblers' Association at 1-3 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX.

The patter of tiny feet on field and footpath

& BRIEFLY

Sale into summer

THE summer sales are starting earlier than ever this year, this week for most, with good reductions on classics such as cashmere sweaters (from £249 to £149 at Simpson of Piccadilly) and Goretex swimwear (from £87 to £52 in the "Selfridge Selection" summer sale catalogue). Liberty's sale, which begins today, has reductions on silk squares — Liberty print from £49.95 to £25.95, Georgina von Etzdorf from £89 to £39.95, and English Eccentrics from £79 to £49.95. Liberty silk ties are now £14.95 instead of £32.50. Worth waiting for, however, is the Hermès summer sale, which starts on July 13, with between 40 and 60 per cent off the entire men's and women's ready-to-wear collections (Hermès dinner jackets for £310, down from £950).

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Coach works

COACH — the American leather goods line which has been available for some time in London (through the Coach Store at 8 Sloane Street, SW1), and the Coach Shop at Harrods — has just launched a mail-order service in Britain. The colour catalogue is free from the Coach Store (071-235 1507) and includes a "Travel Collection", plus structured attache cases and a range of water buffalo accessories, in addition to traditional favourites. It also shows gloves for men and women, belts, camera bags, appointment diaries and other new items. Prices start at about £60 for a mini belt bag, with satchels and substantial pieces from £150.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Final check for school teams

This year there are plenty of fresh faces among the British schools chess finalists

An unusually open field will meet in London on July 4 and 5 to battle for victory in the finals of the British Schools Chess Championship. Three of the four teams come from schools which have never reached the finals before. St Paul's School, which has dominated the competition in recent years, and carried off the trophy nine times in all, was defeated in this year's quarter-finals by Sutton Manor High School, one of the four finalists. During the preliminary rounds of the championship, which ran through the whole of the school year and attracted entries from about 400 schools, victory in seven of the 23 zones went to schools which had never got so far before. This reflects a wider interest in chess in schools since international triumphs by British players began to give the game a new glamour. The championship, sponsored by *The Times* and, before it, by *The Sunday Times* for 35 years, has long been a nursing ground of top players. Former competitors include Nigel Short, Britain's highest rated grandmaster, and William Watson, the 29-year-old grandmaster who in April shared first prize in the Watson, Farley & Williams City of London championship.

Entries are already coming in for next year's tournament, and *The Times* has made a commitment to continue to sponsor the series for at least the next two years. The prizes include a silver cup and badges, and vouchers and subscriptions to a variety of computer services for schools. Next year's prizes will include a compact disc system giving indexed instant retrieval of a year's files of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

'An orderly mind and an orderly chessboard go together'



Twin threat: Adrian (left) and Stephen Gillen of St Columb's

The teams that will fight out the last round of the contest next week at the Charing Cross Hotel will be from Sutton Manor High School, of Sutton, Surrey; Hymer College, Hull; St Columb's College, Londonderry; and Manchester Grammar School. All the expected finalists are boys. Chess clubs at some of the schools have girls among their stronger players, but none is quite strong enough to make it to the finals.

"We cannot deny that the large majority of schools which have success in the tournament are from the independent sector," says Mitchell

Taylor, the former teacher who has organised the contest for many years. "This is a pity, but British chess is now so competitive that it is difficult for comprehensive schools to participate. Constraints on funds work against voluntary activities such as chess."

Standards are high: most of the teams reaching the finals include one or more players of county or international standard among their six players.

"We will probably not be the strongest team there, but we are in with a good chance," says 17-year-old Andrew Webster of Sutton Manor, who plays regularly for England. "Oliver Rosten, who is 12 now, used to be captain of the England under-11 team, and the majority of the others have had county experience."

A school's fortunes can

then flourish are twins, and former winners of the British under-12 and under-13 championships. Their brother Peter won the Ulster under-19 championships last year, although he is only 15. But this summer he will be in the United States, taking part in the Ulster Project, a joint Catholic-Protestant enterprise, and is unlikely to be able to get to London for the finals.

Trevor Hughes, who teaches English at Hymer College, says: "It has been on the cards for a long time that we would break through to the finals. The fact that Britain has so many leading players is an incentive. The team that most other finalists see as the one to beat is Manchester Grammar. It's the only one to have reached the finals before, and has a steady record of success."

"There is a fair smattering of national championship experience among our players," says Dr Gordon Kendall, who teaches religion and philosophy in the school. "I am not a strong player, although I suppose it has some affinity with the subjects I teach. An orderly mind and an orderly chessboard tend to go together."

GEORGE HILL

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Martin Jacques

Labour should back electoral reform to isolate the Tories

Will one of Britain's two main parties abandon its support for first-past-the-post elections and advocate reform? The Labour party has been edging closer over the last two years. Yesterday its working party on electoral reform began to finalise an interim report which will go to the party's national executive committee next month. We should not expect any great surprises: the report will be discursive rather than prescriptive. It will not be unsympathetic to electoral reform, particularly for bodies like the Scottish Assembly, regional assemblies, European Parliament and Labour's proposed new second chamber. Labour's options will be kept open.

Labour has travelled far on electoral reform during the past decade, and the reasons are not difficult to fathom. First came self-interest. Three election defeats in a row began to convince Labour that the only way back into office was via electoral reform. But self-interest has led to open Labour minds to other questions. One was fairness, which the Alliance experience in 1983 and 1987 posed bluntly. How could one justify a system which rewarded votes so unfairly in terms of seats? Meanwhile, the steady Europeanisation of the Labour party exposed it to the troubling argument that every other European Community country uses some kind of proportional representation, so why not Britain? Finally, there is a growing recognition of the need for more fundamental constitutional reform, a sense that, as one shadow cabinet minister put it to me, constitutional matters can no longer be regarded as peripheral, but are central to the way society is run.

As a result, Labour's centre of gravity has shifted. Those like Roy Hattersley who oppose reform have lost the initiative. The key question now is how far Kinnock will move before the election. The most likely outcome is that the party will advocate electoral reform for some bodies, while leaving open the question of the Commons. This has the attraction of enabling Labour to appear to be pro-reform while not tying its hands.

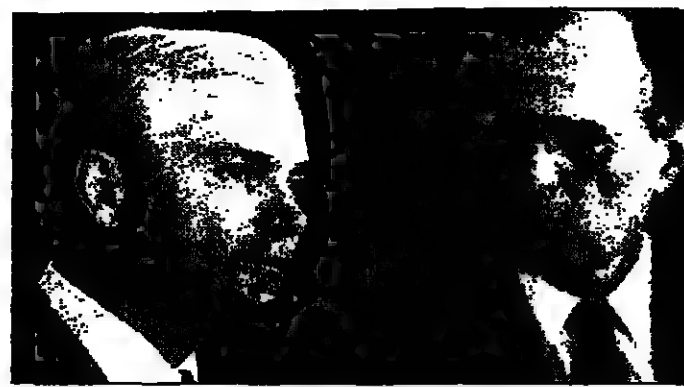
Consider another possibility. Imagine that the Labour manifesto goes further and advocates electoral reform for the Commons. It recognises that this is a national rather than party matter and proposes a speakers' conference or royal commission. Further, it says that any proposals generated would be the subject of a referendum, as is only proper for great constitutional matters.

The effect could be dramatic. Labour would be seen as the party of principle, advocating a change which in some respects would be to its disadvantage. Nothing would more clearly signal it had embraced new values. Labour is no longer identified with the public sector in the way that it was. It has distanced itself from the unions and turned to Europe. Electoral reform would complete the jigsaw. Many of the doubters who have deserted Labour over the last 15 years would find this compelling evidence of change. One of the questions frequently asked of the new-model Labour party is what does it stand for. By espousing electoral reform, Labour would immediately occupy the high ground and leave the country in no doubt it would be a reforming government. The Liberal Democrats would be obliged to welcome the move, and the Tories would be forced further on to the defensive.

A pipedream? Certainly it is unlikely, but it is not impossible. On this matter, as on many others, Neil Kinnock has shown extraordinary flexibility. I suspect he himself is rather in favour of electoral reform. Providing the party can be convinced, he may just embrace it.

With the Cold War over, the Pentagon and the CIA are fighting to be spymaster, writes Peter Stothard

Thoughts about secrets



Bush man: Gates is nominated CIA director last month

America has been charged with being especially weak — most recently by General Norman Schwarzkopf. In the political realm, the CIA has had to struggle hard to explain its long-standing exaggeration of Soviet productivity and national cohesion.

None of these charges is new in itself, but Operation Desert Storm has boosted the power of the Pentagon in ways Washington is just beginning to see. Intelligence-gathering and analysis consumes more than \$30 billion (£18.35 billion) a year. Now that the fight is on for shares

of reduced post cold war budgets, the need for spenders to justify their expenditure is all the greater. The Pentagon is putting its own house in order — and opponents fear it will then move against the vital interests of the CIA.

This fight may provide answers to some old and new questions. For example, has intelligence gathering become too dominated by satellites and bugging devices, too little dependent on the human agents who alone can make intelligent assessments about the enemy? The failure to

anticipate the invasion of Iraq is held to support the answer, yes. More fundamentally, what is the nature of intelligence in a world no longer divided by simple ideology and where the greatest threat to American interests may lie not in a Moscow missile silo, but in a French computer factory or a Japanese biotechnology lab?

Former senior CIA figures such as Herb Meyer (who worked for William Casey in the Reagan administration) predict a rapid growth in the collection of industrial intelligence for policy-makers. Six years ago, Mr Meyer himself predicted that the CIA's monitoring role would extend from genetic research to new manufacturing techniques.

Yet the American system has difficulties in digesting such intelligence. If the CIA were to hand to an American company information about a Japanese

most feared intelligence man in the famous five-sided building is the recently promoted manager of operations, Duane Andrews, a former aide to the House intelligence oversight committee when Mr Cheney was a congressman. To the horror of the generals and admirals — who have traditionally liked to have their own secret files — Mr Andrews has begun a policy of combining intelligence gathering into single centres. Britain is to be the base for the Joint Intelligence Centre for Europe, a site where former rivals from army, navy, airforce, marines and CIA will have to work together.

In a rare interview recently, Mr Andrews compared the exercise with "walking into a room full of china all on the floor — with people complaining that we were going in to break up their rice bowl". The airforce, he said, had separate headquarters for five intelligence units which would be reduced to one, freeing money for more priorities, such as more agents on the ground to feed back information to policy-makers.

But however successful the cost-cutting may be, it is merely a precursor to the bigger battle about how the money that remains will be spent, who will spend it and why. Sir Percy and Mr Cheney will have plenty of scope to continue their private talks, whatever the latest revelations from the folks who investigate on the hill.

The Lion need not fear Emu

No super-state is planned, insists Leon Brittan, but we must be ready to compromise

One word carefully placed in the preamble to a draft treaty amendment has sent Britain into a spin about its future in Europe. Is this anxiety justified? Is Britain about to be ambushed at the Luxembourg summit? And if not, is the isolation of Britain merely delayed because of a successful but temporary diplomatic fending-off operation, or is an acceptable outcome to the two intergovernmental conferences attainable?

As far as federalism is concerned, the key point is that the actual proposals contained even in the present draft treaty would not create a federation or anything like one. So why include in the preamble the aspiration to federalism in the future? The European Commission has certainly not proposed it, and while there are many individuals in EC institutions who support the idea, several governments find it unpalatable. A fully fledged federal state similar to the American model is not in prospect for the community.

In any event, as Douglas Hurd has rightly remarked, federalism means different things to different people. In Britain it has come to be interpreted as something imposed from above at the expense of national sovereignty. For others, such as Germany and Belgium, it implies devolution of power away from the centre, so its connotations for them are quite the opposite of centralising bureaucracy.

There is a high degree of understanding within the commission and in the member states that ambiguity of this kind serves no useful purpose, and the reference to federalism is likely to be

dropped ultimately, if not at Luxembourg this week.

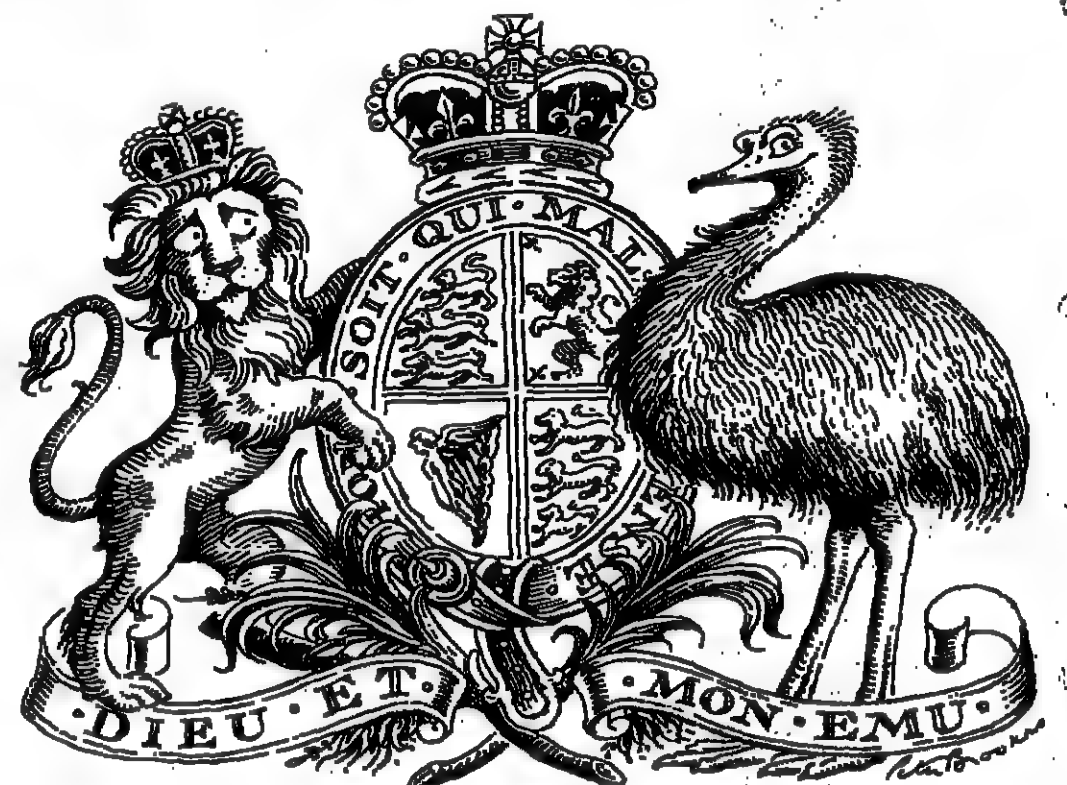
Betting on the outcome of forthcoming summits, however, is a risky business. I cannot be sure there will be no "crunch", when EC heads of government meet in Luxembourg on Friday and Saturday, but there is no need for it and it should be avoided. John Major has won the confidence of his European partners, most of whom realise that there is too much fine-tuning to be done between now and December for any firm decisions to be taken this weekend.

But Britain must not do anything that cannot and should not stop others progressing towards monetary union and a single currency if they so desire. Several important questions relating to European economic and monetary union have yet to be resolved, such as the shape and duration of phase two and the criteria for convergence. They cannot all be settled this week. However, the heads of government cannot be expected just to give their negotiators a pat on the back and an exhortation to carry on the good work. Progress on a few of the points, and guidelines to negotiators for the future outcome on other more difficult ones, can reasonably be expected.

This should not present an insuperable obstacle for Britain. Britain's main difficulty has been the question of principle: its refusal to commit the present parliament to moving to a single currency. But this has now in effect been resolved.

There is broad acceptance both in Britain and within the community of the idea I first suggested last October, which has now been put forward by Jacques Delors. This would allow Britain to sign an Emu treaty in December but leave parliament the unlettered right to decide in several years' time both whether and when to move to a single currency. Such a solution will certainly be acceptable to Britain's partners.

If the currency union works, the force of experience (not blackmail from other community states) will convince Britain to sign up. On the other hand, as Emu progresses, more and more states will come round to the idea — supported most of all by Britain and Germany — that monetary union will work only if the inflation, interest rates and budget deficits of the economies within it converge adequately. Significantly, the majority of anti-Europeans (for example, Teddy Taylor) are content with a solution along these lines. They are convinced that either our partners will not proceed to the final stage of Emu or that if they do, a future parliament will refuse to join it. I am convinced that Emu will happen and that when the time comes, Britain will not want to stay out of it. If those with widely varying views can support the same solution for different reasons, the Conservative party need no longer be divided on this.



Looking at Emu, alongside the other matters being considered in the two conferences, the notion that Britain is perpetually in a minority of one when negotiating in Europe is both wrong and unconstructive, and will do little to help during the tough months of negotiation which lie ahead. Germany, for example, is loath to accept a monetary union which would water down the disciplines of its own Bundesbank. France, another firm advocate of Emu, has doubts over the idea of creating a European central bank hermetically sealed from political influence; it is also wary of giving more powers to the European Parliament and the commission; meanwhile, the Netherlands has yet to be convinced that closer European co-operation over defence would not jeopardise the transatlantic link held in place by Nato. Britain has its own distinct viewpoint on all these matters. On none of them is it on its own. The government should none-

theless be ready to give and take as it approaches the Luxembourg summit. Germany will almost certainly be willing to do the same, despite its doubts: the German government may be prepared to drop its reserve on aspects of monetary union if it feels that the talks on political union will go some way to unplugging the so-called "democratic deficit" by making EC policy more accountable to politicians, notably through the European Parliament. Those who complain about the lack of accountability of the commission should be ready to make at least some moves in that direction. There is usually no point in standing out for an abstract principle if the deal in practice meets Britain's interests.

Britain already accepts the need for a community role in foreign affairs, but fears that to go too far in the realm of security and defence will undermine Nato. The government would do

better to insist that the European defence pillar remain firmly within Nato, using the Western European Union as a bridge into co-operation in defence can be built around the community itself. This would encourage the Americans to see that we are finally bearing our share of the defence burden, and would keep us in the vanguard of European defence, where we belong.

Other matters are still unsettled, but with Britain's main point of principle on Emu virtually resolved, and with a negotiating approach consisting of firmness on the essentials, but a readiness to do deals on the details, there is no reason why Tristram Garland-Jones's prediction should not be fulfilled and a pair of treaties agreed in December. This would be a step forward for Europe and a considerable diplomatic success for Mr Major.

The author is vice-president of the European Commission.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

They should have come to me. I could have helped them. I am an old hand. Indeed, when shrill cries echo across the local greensward, foremost among them many years has been, "Oh God, what is it now, not the old hand again?"

At which I give only the most dismissive of stoic nods, gird the loin, or at any rate the wrist, and get on with it. No tantrums. Just a bit of trusty old rag steeped in Sloane's Liniment. It is what we call attitude, and I shall come to it in a bit. First things, however, first.

You will have seen Karoly Seles banging on last weekend's Number One Seed, both his and Wimbledon's. "Monica is tired," he explained. "When she gets up in the morning, she can hardly walk. We will find a doctor who will change her diet, because a lot depends on that. She will have to forget her favourite food of french fries and ketchup."

If only he had mentioned this earlier. If only he had rung me. I began playing competitive tennis well before Monica was a gleam in Mark McCormack's eye, and when I got up in the morning, I can hardly crawl, but within minutes I am ready to wipe the floor with anyone. This is all down to diet. Nobody in his right mind touches french fries or ketchup before a big match, partly because you cannot inhale potato (as Sir Walter Raleigh discovered when he was serving out his southerns), partly because the tomato is nought per cent proof. For myself, I rely

totally on my own favourite foods, Capstan Full Strength and Vat 69: a couple of the former before you hobnob on court are invaluable in inhibiting the madness which encourages some players to run headlong after balls they have no hope of reaching, and a stiff belt of the latter not only does wonders for settling the nerves, it also enables you to play shots that do not exist in any manual; for example, my legendary forehand rim, which flies vertically off the frame and has frequently remained aloft long enough to reduce my opponent to hysteria, leaving him capable of only the feeblest return which I have then effortlessly put away with that unplayable cross-court volley I do off the handle.

I cannot, I am afraid, reveal what it is off the handle of. You will have heard that one of the pressures on poor Jennifer Capriati is her myriad sponsorship deals; unlike her, I long ago anticipated the headaches such responsibilities bring, and approached a number of manufacturers who were more than happy to provide me with equipment, provided I kept my mouth shut about what I played with. Thus, no contract worries dog my game, especially as I have taken the further precaution of unspiking the logo from my shirt, lest Fred Perry has smart lawyers.

It will therefore be obvious to you that I would also be unlikely to be put off my stroke, if I ever found one, by the sort of stressors that threaten poor Agassi, whose fanatical support depends utterly

upon that iridescent toilette which must take up so much pre-match time which could be better spent in pouring stiffies. Were he to select an unpopular shade of puce, or drop earrings that did nothing for his stubble, his immense teenage following would defect on the spot, taking his confidence with it. My own game, on the other hand, has neither relied on the fickle boost of groupies, nor risked its sapping sexual overdrive: true, the occasional granny has approached me in the hope of a quick set to boost her confidence, but no consequence has ever arisen to enervate my service or excite the tabloids.

As for tantrums or other infringements, what umpire would presume to distinguish the unacceptable in a style for which racket abuse is already too generous a description? Nor was I spoiled by early attention, and the fortune beckoning in its wake. Though I started playing at eight, I have not yet been spotted, and I shall take good care to see that no one spots me now. I do not intend to be whisked off to some Bolletierian hot-house and compelled to cut down to one pack and half a bottle a day only to end up burned out at sixty.

What a level-headed fellow, you will cry. His psyche will never plummet to the nadir which Boris Becker recently testified as having tempted him to cut down to one pack and half a bottle a day only to end up burned out at sixty. What a level-headed fellow, you will cry. His psyche will never plummet to the nadir which Boris Becker recently testified as having tempted him to cut down to one pack and half a bottle a day only to end up burned out at sixty. What a level-headed fellow, you will cry. His psyche will never plummet to the nadir which Boris Becker recently testified as having tempted him to cut down to one pack and half a bottle a day only to end up burned out at sixty.

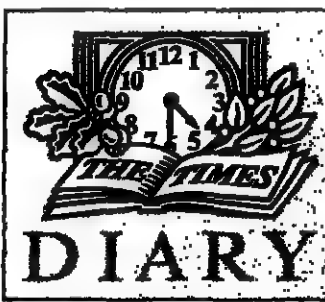
Special service

Our most secretive regiment, the SAS, takes a rare step into the spotlight next month when it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Among the planned events is a special service at Hereford Cathedral, the regiment's spiritual headquarters.

The service is primarily to honour those who first fought under its famous motto "Who dares wins". In the second world war, details are being kept under wraps for security reasons, but some of the special service's most famous members have been invited, including Patrick Leigh-Fermor, the writer and war hero, Earl Jellicoe and Colonel David Sutherland. Those who helped the SAS during its operations abroad, including some of the Greek mountaineers who acted as runners for Leigh-Fermor, are also expected to attend.

"The jubilee celebrations will be conducted as modest, low-key, informal reunions," says the defence ministry. "These gatherings aim to bring together the widely dispersed SAS family to remember the past achievements of the regiment, and not to dwell on current capabilities or recent events such as the Gulf campaign." Speculation continues that the Gulf war honours, likely to be announced in the next few days, will include at least one VC awarded to an SAS man.

Sir Fitzroy Maclean, who joined the SAS in the winter of 1941, a few months after it had been founded by Sir David Stirling in the western deserts of North Africa, will be at the service. "This is the first such service I can remember," he says. His only regret is that Sir David, who died last year, will not be present. "He would have been very proud," says Sir Fitzroy.



Lambeth Council, always keen to promote its socialist credentials, has now taken to replacing its blue litter bins with bright red ones. It is all part of the council's new colour scheme, which are meant to be a creamy red in place of the old blue. However, the finance department has just sent out a memo with a new logo, but on blue paper. As Hugh Jones, leader of the Conservative group, said: "They probably don't like their stationery in the red."

Plum job

Fans of P.G. Wodehouse are campaigning for a memorial stone to be put up in Westminster Abbey. The Queen Mother is a devoted fan, but the merits of Wodehouse are not, it seems, appreciated at the abbey. The popularity of Granada television's adaptation of *Jeeves and Wooster*, starring Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry, has brought Wodehouse's popularity with a new generation, but the authorities at the abbey still will not budge.

William Douglas-Home, the playwright, is spearheading the campaign with Richard Osborne, author of *A Wodehouse Companion*, but the claim joins a distinguished line-up of authors, including Virginia Woolf and the former Poet Laureate Sir John Betjeman. Richard Osborne, who has adapted many Wodehouse novels

and stories for BBC radio, hoped that the dean and chapter at the abbey would change their minds. "The answer is no but only for now," he says. "We will persevere because he is a giant of English literature."

Summer scorcher

Out our brief candle, indeed. Keeping the flame alight during the famous Lady Macbeth scene in the Open Air Theatre's production in the Regent's Park was never going to be easy in such a summer. Then Nicola McAuliffe, who plays the part, decided she would prefer to plunge her hands not into a candle, but into a bowl of fire.

The Magician's Circle was consulted and suggested an illusion created with a borax solution. But



the actress wanted the real thing. "Richard van Allen, the opera singer, said he had seen a fire-resistant gel on *Tomorrow's World*, which if coated on the flesh would resist temperatures of up to 600 degrees centigrade." The BBC put her in contact with the manufacturers, who said there was just one difficulty: the gel is green. Following requests from stunt men and circus acts they had manufactured about 2lb in a flesh colour, but the last of this went to

Pinewood for *Aliens 3*. "I asked if the studio had any spare, and they gave me enough for my scene," says McAuliffe.

How is the production faring in the face of the adverse elements? "We have had lots of Japanese tourists, who sit without coats or umbrellas getting soaked. They love it. This thing is what British culture is all about."

The Cold War really must be over. Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, First Sea Lord, has just returned from a trip to the Soviet Union, the first undertaken by anyone of his rank in our forces. "I was impressed with how open the Soviets were and how keen they are to strengthen our relationship." So now, so they presented Oswald with the new uniform of a Soviet submarine commanding officer. Next step a Soviet application to join Nato?

Now hear this

Never one to leave the limelight solely to her husband, Raisa Gorbachev has signed a contract with a Western publisher for her own story, with the intriguing title of *I Want to be Heard*. Could this mean the Soviet leader does not listen to his wife, or is she clamouring for a greater role? The book is being promoted as more than an autobiography, with a section setting out the Soviet first lady's blueprint for the world's future.

Her London publishers are "not yet ready" to talk about the book, but literary agents suggest a six-figure sum would have hands — possibly as much as £500,000. Not quite in Storm's Norman's league of the £3 million, and Boris Yeltsin, who gave the considerable royalties to charity, but sufficient to keep her for a while in a style to which the Soviets are unaccustomed.



STEWARDED LANDSCAPE

The 1990s are destined to be a traumatic decade for the British countryside. Too much land is being farmed, and not a week passes without some new harbinger of gloom for the farming industry. Battle between protectors and exploiters has been joined over alternative uses. The Times reports today that if every golf course planning application were granted, an area the size of the Isle of Wight would be covered in fairways and bunkers. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has called for a "common European rural policy".

Yesterday came yet another proposal, Michael Heseltine's "countryside stewardship" scheme. Its laudable aim is to protect the landscape and help farmers to shift from intensive, heavily subsidised, agriculture. Change is inevitable. British taxpayers and consumers are beginning to protest at the costs of keeping in production farms that are uncompetitive in world markets. But whatever criticism might have been justified in the past of wealthy farm lobbies and the politicians who indulged them, those whose livelihoods are at stake in rural Britain now need sympathetic and constructive debate.

Bodies such as the National Farmers Union and the Country Landowners Association have naturally been putting in their bids for "custodian" status. There is already a plethora of schemes: "set-aside", conservation grants, management agreements, sites of special scientific interest, environmentally sensitive areas, rural conservation areas. Half Britain's farms are of less than 40 acres, and half of its farmers already derive most of their income from non-farm activities — not just golf courses, but caravan parks, chalets, conference centres, workshops and holiday homes.

Many farmers are desperately trying to withdraw themselves from the narcotic of subsidy. In doing so, they confront the paradoxical opposition of the same conservationists who objected to their nitrate

pollution, deforestation and hedge removal. But whereas the urban property market can usually sustain a listed Georgian terrace or Victorian facade, the public's "demand" for beautiful landscape cannot be so easily converted into the cash to keep it that way.

No price relationship between demand and supply can be quite so delicate as that for beauty in the countryside. There is a large public demand for British landscape. The qualities enjoyed — fields, woods, hedges, streams, footpaths, bridleways, livestock and wild flowers — might embrace a more natural wilderness than the present intensely farmed acres of much of Britain. But even wilderness requires some management. And just as the best custodians of historic homes have been those who actually live in them, so the best custodians of the landscape are likely to be farmers.

One route to keeping farmers on the land is to enable them to profit from its public enjoyment. This implies sympathetic planning policies towards farmers wishing to convert land and buildings to non-farm use, but subject to firm aesthetic and environmental rules. But a purely market-based transition from over-intensive, heavily subsidised farming could ruin much of the countryside and many farmers with it.

New subsidy arrangements are unavoidable. What is crucial is to prevent them mushrooming out of hand, as have those from Brussels, or becoming a disguised rural welfare system. Mr Heseltine's ten-year land-management contracts point in the right direction, with their emphasis on restoring vulnerable landscapes and traditional features. They should become a template for contracts with county planning and national park authorities. Mr Heseltine's zest for nationalising local government should not be extended to nationalising the landscape as well. But this is a step down the road to a new future for the landscape and welcome for that.

BREAKING WITH BELGRADE

After months of false alarms and predictions of civil war that never materialised, Yugoslavia's two richest republics, Croatia and Slovenia, have declared independence and threaten to break all constitutional links with Belgrade. Deaf to foreign entreaties and threats of bloody retribution from Serbia, the largest republic, the two nationalist governments insist that the federation created by Josip Broz Tito is no longer acceptable to them. To all appearances, the country is breaking up. But Yugoslavs are skilled in the art of walking into brick walls and then miraculously through them. The runes are still far from unmistakable.

The declarations will be seen as a provocation by Serbia. They could quickly lead to bloodshed: it takes little to ignite the tinder of pent-up hatred, wartime memories and mutual suspicion between ethnic groups all of which have blood on their hands. The federal army will have difficulty in holding the ring, and the dissident republics have created economic chaos. The federal government cannot even set a budget so long as they insist on withholding tax revenues.

Yet Croatia and Slovenia have been left in no doubt that they are stepping out into an unwelcoming world. In Berlin last week, the 35 members of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe issued an unexpectedly firm statement (to which Yugoslavia assented) urging all parties to resolve their differences. No Western nation is ready to grant Zagreb and Ljubljana diplomatic recognition. In Belgrade last week, James Baker spelt out Washington's disapproval in blunt language. Jacques Delors has been equally uncompromising in insisting that separately, the republics can only hang. Such counsels carry weight, because most Yugoslavs are intent on moving closer to the West.

Much depends now on whether Croatia and Slovenia regard their declarations as the end of negotiations, or the first step towards

a looser type of confederation. The old federal Yugoslavia was a mess, whose natural collapse was staved off only by Tito's iron rule and personality. UDI is perhaps the only way to bring it home to still-communist Serbia that a revamped version of the present rotten structure is not enough: Yugoslavia must now be reformed as a loose confederation that pays far more respect to the different histories, economies and customs of the six republics and their patchwork of peoples, religions and cultures.

Complete separation might be the aim of the ultra-nationalists; but it is impractical. There are too many peoples scattered in too many enclaves to make for tidy borders and political autonomy. No republic is yet rich enough to stand on its own; all depend crucially on trade with each other.

When the collective presidency of all six republics met Jacques Delors in Belgrade recently, none dissented from his proposed formula of a confederation based on a common currency, common market and common foreign and defence policies. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, whose new governments are as democratic as Slovenia's and Croatia's, are attempting to broker a looser confederation, with the support of the reforming federal government of Ante Markovic. Their peacemaking deserves what encouragement the outside world can give.

Yugoslavia is the first test case for the CSCE's conciliation and conflict prevention machinery. The 35 nations, including Yugoslavia, must follow their declaration with real effort to help the republics work out a new relationship. The leaders of Croatia and Slovenia have been provocative in many of their dealings with Belgrade. The bad blood was inevitable, especially in the face of an attempt to hold together by force a marriage that had long soured. But President Franjo Tudjman and President Milan Kucan must show statesmanship now.

MARTIAL ART OF MEMORY

Military memoirs have always been a popular genre, but none can have coined as much for an author as General Norman Schwarzkopf's autobiography has already received in advance. A sum well over \$5 million is said to have been agreed, though the author is sensibly keeping quiet about the details. The unseemly manner in which the Schwarzkopf name is being marketed, though not the fault of its reputedly modest bearer, is unlikely to endear him to his West Point contemporaries. Publishers are much given to speculating on works as yet unwritten. Nobody should take any notice.

Many years must elapse before the value of the general's book as a primary historical source is clear. It will be ghosted. The reader of military history does not expect a fancy style, but authenticity of tone is all-important. A shrewd ghost writer will allow the general's oral mannerisms to leave their mark on the text. A good ear and an intimate acquaintance with both the autobiographer and the field of action are the most useful gifts of a literary ghost. Bismarck's faithful political adviser, Lothar Bucher, drove himself to an early grave while organising his deposed master's rambling dictation into the semblance of a coherent apologia. The result was a bestseller.

Soldiers' memoirs that endure are not, on the whole, compiled by surrogates. Inspiring or repellent, the most readable war memoirs are first-hand: Xenophon's *Anabasis* and Julius Caesar's *Gallie Wars*; the autobiographies of the renaissance swashbucklers, the *Ironhand* of von Berlichingen; the impersonal histories of Grant and Sher-

man, Roberts and Moltke; and the self-dramatising of T. E. Lawrence and Churchill.

In keeping with the ideological nature of 20th-century warfare, most modern military memoirs are an extension of war by other means. The dispassionate overview to which soldiers have aspired since the Greek naval commander Thucydides wrote his history of the Peloponnesian War has only rarely been attempted since the first world war. Ludendorff's memoirs were intended to prove that the German army was stabbed in the back; *Mein Kampf* is a corporal's-eye-view of the same preposterous thesis.

After the second world war, it was the same story of self-exculpation. Montgomery's *Memoirs* damaged his reputation by failing to acknowledge mistakes. On the German side, Mannstein's *Lost Victories* blamed Hitler for the German defeats on the eastern front, and dissociated the army from Nazi crimes. But Mannstein's *aide de camp* later told his story, too: the field marshal had been told of massacres behind the lines, and had done nothing to thwart or depose Hitler.

Memorable memoirs by military men have always been rare birds; today they are almost extinct. Modern generals have either been poor professionals or megalomaniacal impostors, both improbable candidates to write well on war. In the Gulf, the professional beat the impostor with such ease that General Schwarzkopf's hardest task will be to generate any suspense at all. One uncertainty remains: Saddam Hussein is still in power. By the time Norman Schwarzkopf's book appears, could it be scooped by Saddam's? His last revenge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Dangers of ignoring federal issue

From Mr Leolin Price, QC

Sir, It is now suggested (report, June 22) that we should not pay much attention to the idea of "federation" as promoted in the recent draft of a proposed treaty to amend the constitution of the European Communities and, very forcibly, by M Delors in speaking about that draft. The suggestion is as mischievous as it is dangerous.

The draft treaty (which the European Commission could supply to me only in French) would affirm, in Article A, its character as a step towards "une Union à vocation fédérale" and that, by it, the High Contracting Parties "instituent entre elles une Union".

Article B would commit that Union to a single currency and to single foreign, security and defence policies; and would impose on me a Union citizenship (*citoyenneté de l'Union*) which I do not desire or need.

Article D would accord to the President of the Commission, as a member of the Council, a status very different from his proper, subordinate position of being in attendance as head of the new federal state's civil service.

Article E would affirm respect for the principle of subsidiarity — a so-called principle hitherto so disregarded that it could not be adopted without definition. There is no definition in the draft.

By Article F3 the new Union would be endowed (*L'Union se dote*) with whatever means are necessary to achieve its objectives and carry out its policies, and no doubt it is envisaged that there is to be a great increase in the funds to be placed in the spendthrift hands of the Community.

In the draft supplied Articles G to U (inclusive) have been suppressed. My wish to understand and take part in what ought to be a great and public debate is not well served by that suppression and no doubt it

does not affect M Delors and other privileged participants in the debate.

Article W would give the Commission itself a remarkable power to propose changes in the constitution of the new federal Union. Although pleasing to power-seeking bureaucrats, that surely cannot be acceptable to anyone else. And Article W would also set a fixed (probably early) date for a review of the founding treaties "dans la perspective d'un renforcement du caractère fédéral de l'Union".

The strong impression is of a new federal Union with great powers exercised at the centre. For us to sign and accept such a treaty on the basis that we, as a member state, could stand aside from any of its commitments would be absurd. Commitment to such overwhelming change in our constitutional arrangements would be implicit in the signature and acceptance of the treaty. That is what we would be told later. We should not accept such a "fudge" even though commended to us by M Delors and Sir Leon Brittan.

We have made a limited transfer of governmental powers to the Communities. Even if the limited powers so transferred were being used economically and efficiently and to our advantage, we could not be criticised for refusing to agree to the transfer of further powers or to new changes in the constitution of the Communities.

If others want further powers to be transferred and new constitutional changes to be made, they should try to persuade us, and before any such transfer or change is made our government at Westminster ought to be satisfied that it has our well-informed and wholehearted approval.

Yours truly,
LEOLIN PRICE,
10 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2,
June 24.

State of the union

From Professor Earl Russell

Sir, I am glad that Jonathan Clark has introduced a historical dimension into the current debate on Europe and sovereignty. However, you have done him no service by printing his article under the heading "England's very peculiar state" (June 19). As Dr Clark knows very well, the state which now enjoys sovereignty is not England: it is Britain.

Britain as a state owes its origins to the Act of Union of 1707. In that Act, England and Scotland, two sovereign nation states, agreed to pool sovereignty while retaining their national identities and many of their separate institutions. This is very much the pattern Sir Geoffrey Howe has recommended. They even agreed to set up a single currency while keeping separate national banknotes.

If Mrs Thatcher and her allies think that pooling of national sovereignty is always impossible or impermissible, they should join with the Scottish Nationalists in

introducing a bill to repeal the Act of Union.

Yours faithfully,
RUSSELL,
House of Lords.

From the Reverend Graham Weeks

Sir, Jonathan Clark does explain much about "England's very peculiar state". However, not all sides in seventeenth-century England regarded human sovereignty as absolute. The common Christian pre-enlightenment view was that rulers are under the law of God. They are not free to make up laws at their own convenience.

Samuel Rutherford, in *Lex Rex* (1644), following John Calvin, argued that law divine, not natural, is king. All rulers are God's servants and if they tyrannically abuse that trust the "lesser magistrate" (the legislature) have a responsibility to resist. Such resistance caused one king to lose more than his crown.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM J. WEEKS,
International Presbyterian Church,
Drayton Green, Ealing, W13.

Plight of mentally ill

From Dr Harry Jacobs

Sir, Will your June 18 report (later editions), "£45,000 damages for man who murdered his mother", coming after Prince Charles's public-spirited speech on the current plight of the mentally ill (report, May 30), produce any delay in the destruction of in-patient resources?

We have a recent case of a London coroner noting how frequently these often already troubled souls spend many hours of consideration before genuine acute 24-hour care can be summoned.

In that case a GP noted that the poor woman was suicidal; she was not admitted to hospital and jumped to her death that night. The man who murdered his mother had requested success for his mental illness, again to no avail.

The damages recently awarded surely encourage compassion and accountability. Let us remember that any institution can be a splendid resource or a dismal, depressing morgue. Just because there are occasional poor schools does not warrant tearing them all down, willy-nilly.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY JACOBS
(Chairman,
Society of Clinical Psychiatrists),
The Coach House, Rochford,
Wormingford,
Colchester, Essex,
June 19.

Glue-ear operations

From the Editor of Which? Way to Health

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford and others (Medical Briefing, June 13) seem to have misunderstood our comments on glue ear in the June issue of *Which? Way to Health* magazine. The following three points are worth making:

Doctors do not agree when an operation for glue ear is necessary; there is no standard set of criteria to which they can refer. As a result there is a wide variation in operating rates.

Many children do not benefit from surgery to correct glue ear. In fact, guarantees of benefit could only be given to parents of children who are almost completely deaf as a result of the condition.

Research needs to be done to

establish not only which operations offer the greatest benefits in relation to cost (both financial and human), but also to establish what are our national priorities in healthcare.

It may well be, at the end of this, that we decide as a nation that children take priority, and that it is worth doing glue-ear operations at the current rate for the majority who will benefit. But surely research should be done first to try to determine some basic criteria for operating in the first place? Many children simply do not need surgery, and many respond to much less invasive treatment.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DICKINSON,
Editor,
Which? Way to Health,
Consumers' Association,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1.

Need to resolve future of football

From the Chief Executive of the Football League

Sir, I read with great interest your leading article of June 22, "Football's feud", which highlighted the present dispute between the Football Association and the Football League. Indeed, I feel there is considerable merit in your suggestion that the minister for sport should appoint an independent mediator of the stature of Lord Justice Taylor to resolve the impasse which currently threatens the national game.

An independent study by management consultants Touche Ross (report, June 13) recently showed that more than half the clubs remaining in the Football League would face extinction if the Football Association's plans for a super league became a reality.

In addition, a Gallup poll (report, May 23) of football fans indicated that seven out of ten supporters were opposed to the concept of a breakaway super league, whilst they unanimously endorsed the view that the FA and the League should get together without pre-conditions to resolve the future of football.

Our view has always been, and remains, that we would prefer to resolve this issue by agreement and we have no desire to see the present difficulties degenerate into a time-consuming and costly legal wrangle.

However, we do perceive fundamental differences between the FA's concept for the future and the clubs which it seeks to take into its

fold — on the number of clubs who would eventually make up the Premier League, for example. It may be, therefore, that the area of conflict between the professional game and the governing body is simply being moved from one place to another. In contrast, I have been given a mandate by the First Division clubs which we hope they will find attractive.

The Football League remains committed to making progress and taking the game forward; after all, we began this whole debate with our discussion document, *One Game, One Team, One Voice*, in which we highlighted numerous areas for improvement.

I should point out, however, that if your suggestion of a mediator is to be effected, then the Football Association Council will need to be discouraged from making any decision which might prejudice the position when it debates the issue at its meeting next Saturday.

We hope the council will allow adequate time for further talks aimed at an amicable settlement, as its blueprint has only been out for a week (report, June 19) and the financial projections have not yet been detailed.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR SANDFORD,
Chief Executive,
The Football League,
Winchester House,
259-269 Old Marylebone Road, NW1,
June 24.

Soldiers' compensation

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, It is perfectly understandable that on both sides of the House there is much concern over the decision by the Ministry of Defence not to pay compensation to the Grenadier Guardsmen Adrian Hicks, Sean Povey and John Ray (report, June 22). All three suffered the loss of both legs and other injuries when a buried shell exploded while they were digging a trench during a training exercise in Canada in July 1989.

During a recent brief Commons debate on the matter the minister confirmed that the injured soldiers were in no way to be blamed for what occurred; since, however, the ministry have been advised that there was no negligence on their part, they have therefore come to the conclusion that no one is to be blamed and compensation cannot be paid.

Sean Povey is a constituent of mine who is still in a military

hospital two years after the accident. He joined the Grenadier Guards at 18 and was a year older when the tragedy occurred. A teacher at the school he attended wrote and told me how proud Sean was to join the army at the first opportunity, and that he had no wish to pursue another career. I am sure the same applies to his two colleagues injured at the same time.

Unless the ministry relents, the case will almost certainly go to court: but is this the proper way to treat these three soldiers now crippled for life? When discharged, as they will be, a pension will be paid, but this cannot in any way be an adequate substitute for compensation. A construction worker involved in the Channel tunnel sadly also lost both legs in July 1989 and received £370,000 in agreed damages. Should Guardsmen Hicks, Povey and Ray be treated so differently?

Yours etc.,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons,
June 22.

Junior doctors' hours

From Miss Mary Anderson

Sir, In all the recent publicity on reduction of junior hospital doctors' hours there has been a small but constant criticism of the royal colleges in dragging their feet over the matter. We should like to put the record straight.

In May this college carried out an exercise on staffing and presented to the Department of Health the numbers of additional doctors required in each hospital in England and Wales to fulfil immediately the demands imposed by the "Heads of Agreement" (the ministerial group studying junior doctors' hours). The cost of the exercise was estimated by us as £8 million. The department has always been receptive to our evidence and we await their response with interest.

Now we have completed a larger

but similar review of staffing so that not only will junior doctors' hours be reduced to the required 72 hours but the consultant load of responsibility will also be appropriately adjusted to acceptable levels. The other royal colleges are engaged in similar exercises.

The colleges do not exist simply for the protection of their fellows and members and the organisation of their education. Their prime purpose, as stated in their charters, is the protection of the patients' interests and the maintenance of safe and adequate standards of care.

Yours,
MARY ANDERSON (Chairman,
Manpower Committee),
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists,
27 Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
June 19.

Kuwait death sentences

From Mr H. B. Khokhar

Sir, Six Kuwaiti journalists were sentenced to death by a Kuwaiti martial-law court last week. The only crime they had committed was working for an Iraqi newspaper, *al-Nidaa*, during the occupation of Kuwait to earn their livelihood.

Journalists and others connected with the profession cannot survive without work, even in the case of occupation of their homeland. The six, who merely worked for the newspaper brought out by the occupation forces, did not commit any sin or agitate against the legitimate government of Kuwait.

Most of the lucky Kuwaitis who got out after the Iraqi occupation were financially supported by the exiled regime, whether in the Gulf countries or elsewhere. The death sentence on these six journalists negates all provisions of justice and we appeal to the Emir of Kuwait to let them free.

Yours etc.,
H. B. KHOKHAR (President,
Council of Third World Newspapers),
260 Park West, W2,
June 21.

From Mrs Pauline Ashley

Sir, The controversy over the value of the glue-ear operation exists because of the absence of reliable evidence.

The insertion of grommets to remedy glue ear is the most common childhood operation. Yet when the Hearing Research Trust held a seminar on the subject, it found that virtually all existing research studies were considered flawed.

Grommets undoubtedly give immediate relief of the deafness caused by glue ear, but the gluey mucus often returns. The most effective long-term treatment is as yet unknown, but the trust is encouraging research which it hopes will lead to more rational action.

Yours faithfully,
PAULINE ASHLEY (Chairman),
Hearing Research Trust,
330/332 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Degree results

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I am surprised that, in his survey on Oxbridge degree results (report, June 19), Dr McCrum seems not to have taken into consideration the relative subjects taken by men and women students.

There are far more men than women in the mathematics-based science subjects, in which, if all correct answers are given, a first-class degree is inevitable, whereas in the arts subjects (which the majority of women take) it is much more difficult to get a first, dependent, as these are, on examiners' opinions rather than purely on figures.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

Short-changed

From Mr W. H. Stokoe

Sir, Mr Macfarlane's letter (June 19) highlights the practical problems of European travel. What we need is the *etu* — the European tipping unit.

It would provide a practical solution to the perennial problem faced by travellers: no more fumbling for the right currency coin. Porters would not lose valuable time before hunting down their exact tip. Mobility of labour amongst fruit machines, parking meters, vending machines and arcade games could standardise on the coin. Everyone would win.

Mr Macfarlane's children and other seasoned young travellers might even come to see it as the European tuck unit.

Yours faithfully,
BILL STOKOE,
Chantry Down, Echo Pit Road,
Guildford, Surrey,
June 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Lone hot spot as the rain continues

By ROBIN YOUNG

ONE small part of Britain yesterday rivalled the 90F temperatures being enjoyed in Moscow. Staff had to resort to electric fans after a burst water main in the London offices of the stockbroker Smith New Court put the air-conditioning plant out of action and filled the building with steam.

For the rest of the country, it was another dull, cold and wet day. After overnight rain, today will continue blustery with heavy showers and intermittent periods of sunshine.

Matches started promptly at Wimbledon yesterday but rain interrupted play at 4.20pm for 90 minutes and again at 6.20pm. Because of the disruption play will begin today at 11am on all but centre and number one courts, where games will commence at 1pm. The 11am start is the earliest in the tournament's history for the singles championships.

The London weather centre said yesterday that temperatures in most parts of Britain are running 2C below normal. The South has had 70 per cent more than its normal quota of rain for the month so far, with more rain forecast until Friday.

In spite of the downpour, the Mid-Kent Water Company began moves yesterday to extend its drought order, which has been in force since last August. The company says that water use will have to be restricted for a further six months.

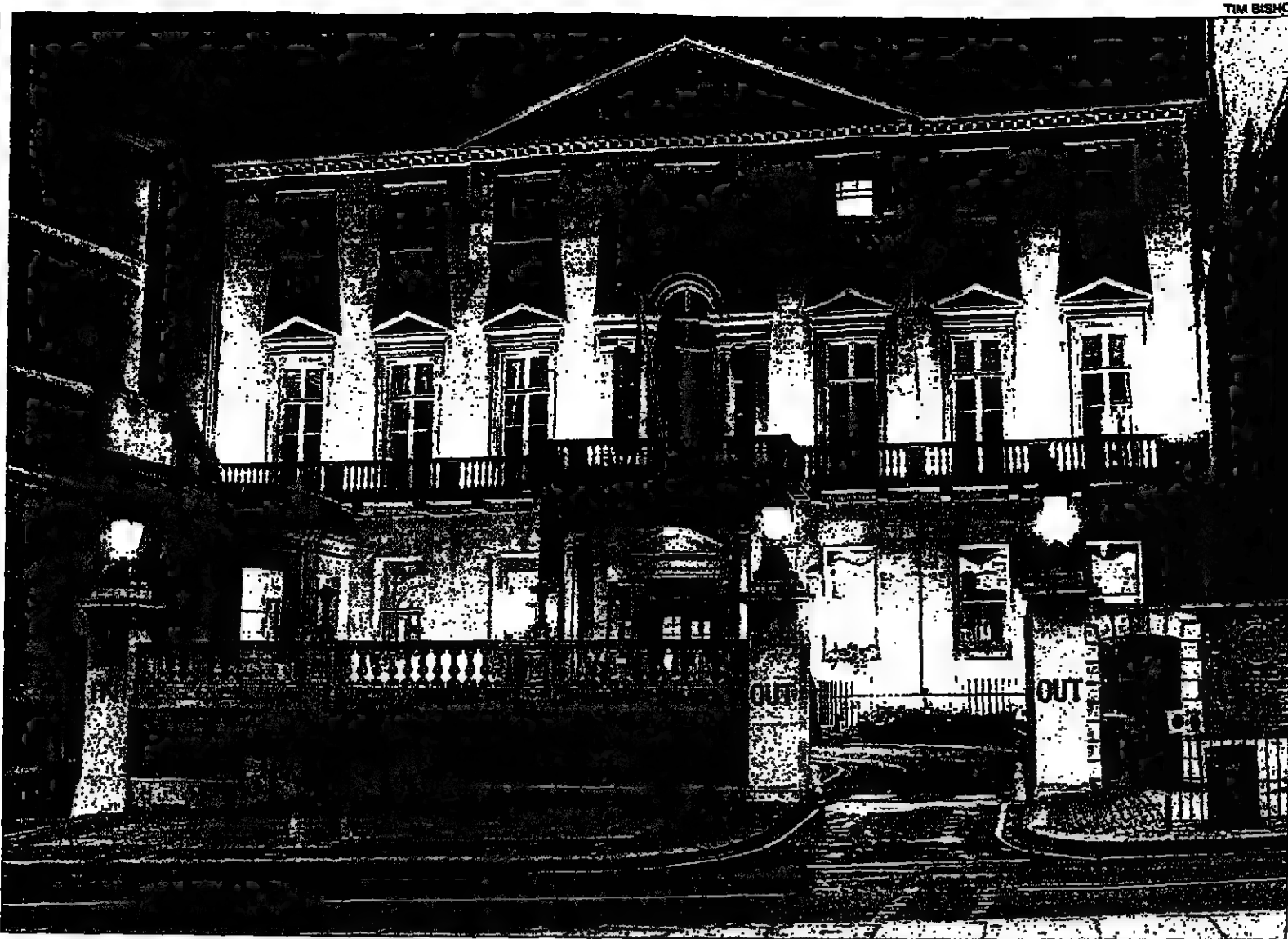
Hosepipe bans remain in parts of the South and East, while north London, Hertfordshire and parts of Berkshire and Surrey are still facing their worst water shortage for 250 years.

In Scotland more than 100 drivers were stranded at a pass on the A83 through the west Highlands, after rain prevented tar from a newly-laid from setting, clogging car tyres.

The rain has also caused a major financial headache for insurance companies. Outdoor events throughout the country have been washed out or driven into loss, and companies who offer cover against inclement weather have been forced to pay out hundreds of thousands of pounds.

John Lear, who manages Eagle Star's Pluvius rain insurance policy, said: "This could be our worst year in 70 years of offering weather insurance. Each June weekend so far has cost us about £100,000."

Wimbledon, pages 39, 40



Under attack: the Naval and Military club in Piccadilly, famous as the In and Out, and (below) the elegant dining room, overlooking a quiet garden

Hotel plans put club in danger

By MARCUS BONNEY

A FIERCE planning battle is looming over the future of the Naval and Military Club in Piccadilly, better known as the "In and Out". The Kuwaiti owners, the Al Marzook family, have drawn up proposals to convert the club, built in 1756 as the town house of Lord Egremont and later Lord Palmerston, into a luxury 110-bedroom hotel. Their architect is John Simpson, one of the eight architects involved in the Paternoster scheme north of St Paul's. The plans include a substantial new block behind the club's large and elegant dining room which overlooks a quiet garden.

The owners will need to obtain planning permission for change of use and consent for alteration to a grade one listed building and are likely to meet strong resistance from the Georgian Group and English Heritage.

Westminster Council will also be concerned about long views of the club's handsome front from across Green Park as it has recently been discovered that the air conditioning units of a new development in

Marylebone Lane are visible above the fine 18th century facade of the Oriental Club in Stratford Place.

Recent years have seen the loss of a steady stream of traditional London clubs through closures and amalgamations. The Guards Club, the United Services Club, the St James's Club, the Devonshire Club and the Bath Club have all vacated handsome premises.

Yet London clubs constitute the most important group of traditionally furnished historic interiors in the capital especially since many City livery halls were destroyed by bombing and most of the major aristocratic town houses had been lost to redevelopment, notably Chesterfield House, Devonshire House, Grosvenor House, Londonderry House, Norfolk House and Northumberland House.

The In and Out has been at 94 Piccadilly since Palmerston's death in 1865 but its lease expires in 1995. The club, with a flourishing 5,000 membership, is keen to remain.



MPs to get free trips to Europe

Continued from page 1

John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, after lengthy negotiations with opposition parties. The proposals will go before the Commons services committee for approval next month and will bring to an end a long-running battle between Westminster MPs and MEPs who are to be given

greater access to the facilities at Westminster. MEPs have long complained they are treated as second-class citizens at Westminster where they have had to queue with the public to listen to Commons debates and have been barred from the best Commons restaurants. Now they will have reserved seats in the

front two rows of the public gallery and tables in the dining rooms. Lord Bethell, a Tory Euro MP, says: "For the first 10 years we were not even allowed a pass to enter the Palace of Westminster. It was a political decision to keep down the new boys from Strasbourg."

Political sketch

Bottom of the Commons class

WHAT is it about questions to the education secretary which attracts the remedials? You would expect the class swots to show off, but no: it is the politically sub-normal who seem drawn, like backbench moths to the flame, to burn their wings at the dispatch box porch lamp.

None would put Dr Sir Rhodes Boyson (C, Brent N) in this category; but no bristling of this ex-headmaster's mutton-chops could conceal the logical flaw in his question. Our Manchester BA (hons) and LSE PhD deplores the influence wielded by teachers who do not teach. He wanted to know why a majority of "every committee set up regarding the curriculum" was not composed of those currently teaching. Well, Rhodes, stay on after class, and let's take this through carefully, step by step...

Next came Sir Bernard Braine (C, Castle Point), whose question was about the need for "more speech therapists" among today's young people. Sir Bernard (77), who is not among today's young people, struggled to articulate his feelings with wild arm-waves and desperate hand-gestures. Perhaps he was offering a graphic illustration of young people's problems?

We hesitate, then, to fail Sir Rhodes at GCSE logic, or Sir Bernard at elocution. But how can we pass David Shaw (C, Dover) at history? "Under Labour," he told us, "there was no effective monitoring in schools". Mr Shaw, who is one of those young Tories who until last November had never made love under anyone but Mrs Thatcher, can hardly be expected to remember that not only did HM inspectorate monitor schools continuously, "under Labour", but their reports, under Labour, formed the basis of most of Tory criticism of schools policy.

Alan Amos (C, Hexham) rose, dried up, and fails GCSE drama. Ronnie

Campbell (Lab, Blyth Valley) fails arithmetic. His education authority, he said, had accumulated a "repairs backlog of £10,000,000,000". A growl of disbelief grew from all sides.

"Sorry, £10,000,000". Better, Ronnie.

Finally, Gerald Howarth (C, Cannock & Burnwood) fails grammar. "Would the education secretary not agree with me with the apostrophe being subjected to the most intolerable abuse... the biggest favour we can do children is to give them a thorough knowledge of the structure and grammar of the wonderful English language?"

Gerald, look carefully at that sentence. It contains one redundant and one abused preposition and, potentially, a missing apostrophe. "Would he agree that the apostrophe is subjected" is best. Otherwise "would he agree with the apostrophe's being subjected" is intelligible, if you can, between the "structure" and "grammar" of the wonderful English language.

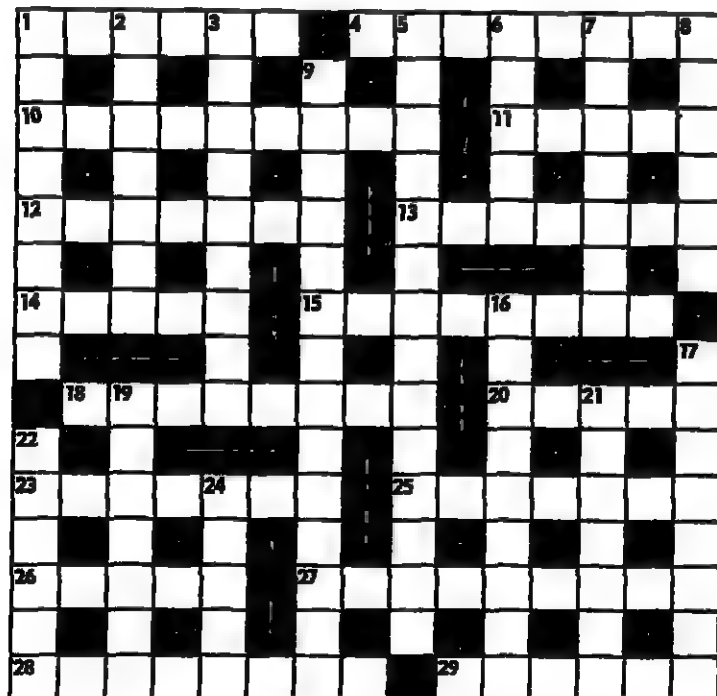
PM's questions found another preposition in distress, though its distress was as nothing compared to that of Roy Hattersley, standing in for Neil Kinnock to test whether we could tell full cream butter from Stork. He asked a straight question (did Major approve of an 88 per cent salary increase?), got a straight answer ("no") and floundered, seeking to ask how it was possible to disapprove of something without banning it.

Then, asked when the promised recovery would begin, the PM said "In the second half of the year".

An odd little preposition, "in". Two possible meanings. According to one, the recovery may be the other side of Christmas. Otherwise, Major has five days.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,642



- ACROSS**
- Explosive concoction produced by a descendant of Abraham (6).
 - Take away and digest (8).
 - Up to that time nearly thirty comprehended the cipher (9).
 - A hint of allure about the Orient (5).
 - 8's unusual name for a corded fabric (7).
 - Player engendering high tension around parts of Paris (7).
 - Weapon in a hunter's grasp early in history (5).
 - Like a secure telephone peace-keepers made use of (8).
 - News broadcast round a single point (8).
 - Banish to unknown, isolated land, say (5).
 - Envisage one taking drink in West (7).
 - Body of man found in saloon, possibly (7).

- DOWN**
- You once wore stockings in the conservatory? (8).
 - Show anger at the way many cut into the cheese (7).
 - The variety of maple here is short-lived (9).
 - Fluctuate like the simoom and mistral respectively? (4,3,3,4).
 - Creature making a row about midnight (5).
 - Fish and strong drink provided by one's mate (7).
 - A motto for cooking fruit (6).
 - Follow behind telephone engineers entering the pub? (5,2,3,4).
 - Bogus corporal's alias (9).
 - Unique new 'spectacles' help us do so (8).
 - Native African extremists died in a gun scuffle (7).
 - Popular choice in list of services (7).
 - Judge has stomach upset in primitive hut (6).
 - Greek dialect making use of particles (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- SHIRAZEE**
a. A water meadow
b. A type of square dance
c. A swagman's bundle
- KAKI**
a. A childlike mess
b. An Australian parrot
c. The Japanese persimmon
- FERNANCY**
a. Very gay
b. Type of French lace
c. Receiving
- STROUD**
a. A Gloucestershire cheese
b. A blanket for American Indians
c. To patch

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	
C London (within N & S Circles)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

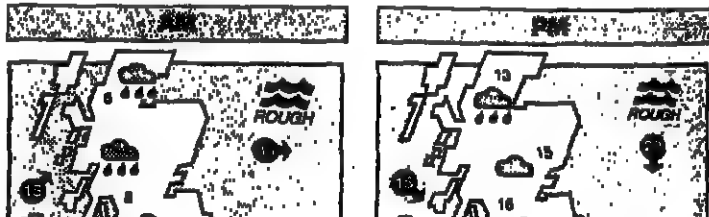
WEATHER
Many places will have showers, the heaviest of which are likely over Northern Ireland, northern and western parts of England and Wales, and southern Scotland. There may also be some thunder. Northern Scotland will start wet then brighten up. Southern England may have a few showers and some sunshine. Temperatures will be low and most places will be breezy. Outlook: remaining cool and showery.

TEMPERATURES		WINDS		HUMIDITIES	
Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind	Temp	Wind
London 18.0	15.0	London 18.0	15.0	London 18.0	15.0
Manchester 16.0	14.0	Manchester 16.0	14.0	Manchester 16.0	14.0
Birmingham 17.0	16.0	Birmingham 17.0	16.0	Birmingham 17.0	16.0
Cardiff 15.0	13.0	Cardiff 15.0	13.0	Cardiff 15.0	13.0
Edinburgh 14.0	12.0	Edinburgh 14.0	12.0	Edinburgh 14.0	12.0
Glasgow 13.0	11.0	Glasgow 13.0	11.0	Glasgow 13.0	11.0
Sheffield 16.0	15.0	Sheffield 16.0	15.0	Sheffield 16.0	15.0
Nottingham 17.0	16.0	Nottingham 17.0	16.0	Nottingham 17.0	16.0
Leeds 16.0	15.0	Leeds 16.0	15.0	Leeds 16.0	15.0
Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0
Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0

FORECAST
For the latest regional forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hampshire & Isle of Wight	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	708
Northfolk, Suffolk, Norfolk	709
West Midlands & Shropshire	710
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	711
Central Midlands	712
East Midlands	713
Lincolnshire & Humberside	714
Dyfed & Powys	715
Gwynedd & Clwyd	716
N W England	717
W & S Yorks & Lancs	718
N E England	719
Cumbria & Lake District	720
S W Scotland	721
W Central Scotland	722
Edinburgh, Orkney & Shetland	723
N Ireland	724

Weathercall is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.



TEMPERATURES		WINDS		HUMIDITIES	
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Cardiff 15.0	13.0	Cardiff 15.0	13.0	Cardiff 15.0	13.0
Edinburgh 14.0	12.0	Edinburgh 14.0	12.0	Edinburgh 14.0	12.0
Glasgow 13.0	11.0	Glasgow 13.0	11.0	Glasgow 13.0	11.0
Sheffield 16.0	15.0	Sheffield 16.0	15.0	Sheffield 16.0	15.0
Nottingham 17.0	16.0	Nottingham 17.0	16.0	Nottingham 17.0	16.0
Leeds 16.0	15.0	Leeds 16.0	15.0	Leeds 16.0	15.0
Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0
Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0	Sheff 16.0	15.0

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Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	708
Northfolk, Suffolk, Norfolk	709
West Midlands & Shropshire	710
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	711
Central Midlands	712
East Midlands	713
Lincolnshire & Humberside	714
Dyfed & Powys	715
Gwynedd & Clwyd	716
N W England	717
W & S Yorks & Lancs	718
N E England	719
Cumbria & Lake District	720
S W Scotland	721
W Central Scotland	722
Edinburgh, Orkney & Shetland	723
N Ireland	724

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Wells Fargo shares halted

Major issues

Rolling suffers

THE POUND

STOCK MARKET

MAJOR CHANGES

INTEREST RATES

CURRENCIES

GOLD

NORTH SEA OIL

RETAIL PRICES

Political sketch
Bottom of the Commons

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-26
- LAW 27
- FOCUS: ORDINANCE SURVEY 33-35
- SPORT 36-40

THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Wells Fargo shares halted

WELLS Fargo, America's seventh largest bank valued at \$4.14 billion, stunned Wall Street by announcing bad debts have climbed to \$1 billion. Trading in the shares was halted as the news emerged. There were indications the shares would fall from \$90 to \$75. They have traded at almost \$100 in the past year (Philip Robinson writes).

Half the \$1 billion of bad loans are to troubled debt-financed management buy-outs and property developers. As a result, the bank's profits for the second quarter will plunge from \$232.4 million to \$15 million dragging first-half net earnings down from \$392.2 million to \$165 million.

Analysts are expected to sharply downgrade full-year figures. They had expected a 10 per cent fall in profits this year to \$617 million, or \$12 a share. But Wells Fargo has so far earned only \$3 a share in six months.

Last October, the bank's shares were hit by a wave of short sellers betting that its property and corporate loans would soar and the price would plunge. Instead the price jumped 70 per cent.

Morland issue

Morland & Co, the brewer, is raising \$10.8 million via a one-for-four rights issue at 265p a share. The proceeds will help finance the £16.4 million purchase of 101 Thames Valley pubs from Courage. Whitbread Investment, owner of 43.6 per cent of Morland shares, is taking up its entitlement.

Temps, page 23

Building suffers

Britain's building sector is suffering its worst recession since 1945, with the ratio of work completed to new orders running at five-to-one, the Building Employers Confederation's national contractors group said.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6295 (-0.0140)
German mark 2.9282 (-0.0046)
Exchange index 88.8 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1921.6 (+0.5)
FT-SE 100 2451.2 (+2.9)
New York Dow Jones 2912.12 (-0.89)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23907.42 (+141.96)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
DC Gardner 78p (+25p)
Bick 233p (+7p)
Mey 164p (+15p)
Davy 80p (+18p)
RHM 288p (+1p)
Hawker Siddley 569p (+11p)
Reuter 785p (+8p)
FALLS:
Rank Org 84p (-15p)
Thomson Corp 825p (-10p)
Lap 79p (-12p)
Beazer 116p (-28p)
Costan 135p (-15p)
Morland 310p (-10p)
JA Devenish 187p (-9p)
News Corp 370p (-14p)
ASW 231p (-5p)
ADT 687p (-5p)
Bois 367p (-8p)
Chemung 570p (-10p)
MI 230p (-10p)
Closing Prices...Page 24

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 11 1/2%
3-month Interbank 11 1/4-11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4-10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5 5/8-5 5/16%
30-year bonds 9 5/8-9 5/16%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1 6295
£ DM 2.9282
£ Sfr 2.5530
£ FF 164.5
£ Yen 253.95
£ Index 88.8
ECU 10 701.800
ECU 10 425.313
SDR 16 237.886

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$363.25 pm \$363.35
close \$363.45-363.85 (\$223.00-223.50)
New York:
Comex \$363.25-363.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (last) \$18.10
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.5 May (1987-100)

Addition of liner to Cunard fleet could cost shipping group \$200 million

Trafalgar calls for £310m to fund Davy deal

By MATTHEW BOND

TRAFALGAR House, the shipping and property conglomerate, is raising £310 million through a one-for-three rights issue, mainly to buy and re-finance Davy Corporation, the loss-making engineering group.

Trafalgar also plans to buy a cruise liner to add to its Cunard fleet, which already includes the QEII.

Sir Eric Parker, chief executive of Trafalgar, was reluctant to expand on the plans to buy a liner, although he did indicate that such a vessel could cost the company about \$200 million.

But he was more forthcoming about the conditional deal to acquire Davy, which announced five days ago that it was unable to continue trading in its current form. He said: "It is a marvellous deal. The combination of Trafalgar House's and Davy's engineering and construction activities will create one of the largest businesses of its kind in the world."

His comments were echoed by Sir Alistair Frame, chairman of Davy, whose board is recommending the deal. He said: "The merger of Trafalgar House and Davy is undoubtedly in the best interests of our shareholders, employees and customers."

The stock market, however, was less enthusiastic. Trafalgar shares fell 32p to 211p, for a two-day fall of 43p. At that level, Trafalgar's shares stand 27p below a theoretical ex-rights price calculated before

the rights issue rumours hit the share price. The new shares will be issued at 190p.

There was a consensus that Trafalgar had deliberately raised more than it needed to buy Davy. The full offer values Davy at £114 million, although Trafalgar said that Davy will require a further £200 million of additional finance over the next two years.

There was also criticism that, for the next two years, the new shares - to be classed as A shares - will receive dividends in scrip form, which mitigates Trafalgar's growing problem with unrelieved advanced corporation tax.

The issue was still fully subscribed by Kleinwort Benson, the broker. Kleinwort replaced Cozen & Co, Trafalgar's own broker, which had a conflict of interest through its relationship with Spie Batignolles, the French group that has a 15 per cent stake in Davy.

Davy's problems stem from its contract to convert a semi-submersible drilling rig into an oil production platform for the North Sea's Emerald field. By the time work is completed in the autumn, the cost could approach £250 million, compared with the £127 million fixed contract price.

Sir Eric said Trafalgar was still not convinced that the losses associated with the Emerald platform were at an end. For that reason, Trafalgar's 95p a share cash offer to Davy shareholders will come in two parts, 50p immediately and a further 45p once an initial payment of £88 million for the platform is received.

The bid is also conditional on all litigation relating to the rig contract being dropped.

Until last Thursday's announcement of £86.1 million total losses, Davy's shares traded at more than 100p. In the wake of Thursday's figures, they dropped as low as 51p. Sir Eric said that although Trafalgar and its advisers had been working on a full bid for Davy for about six weeks, the price had not been agreed until Sunday. "I would not negotiate with them until the seriousness of Davy's situation came into the public domain," he said. Trafalgar had been interested in Davy since 1982, but had never been able to agree a price.

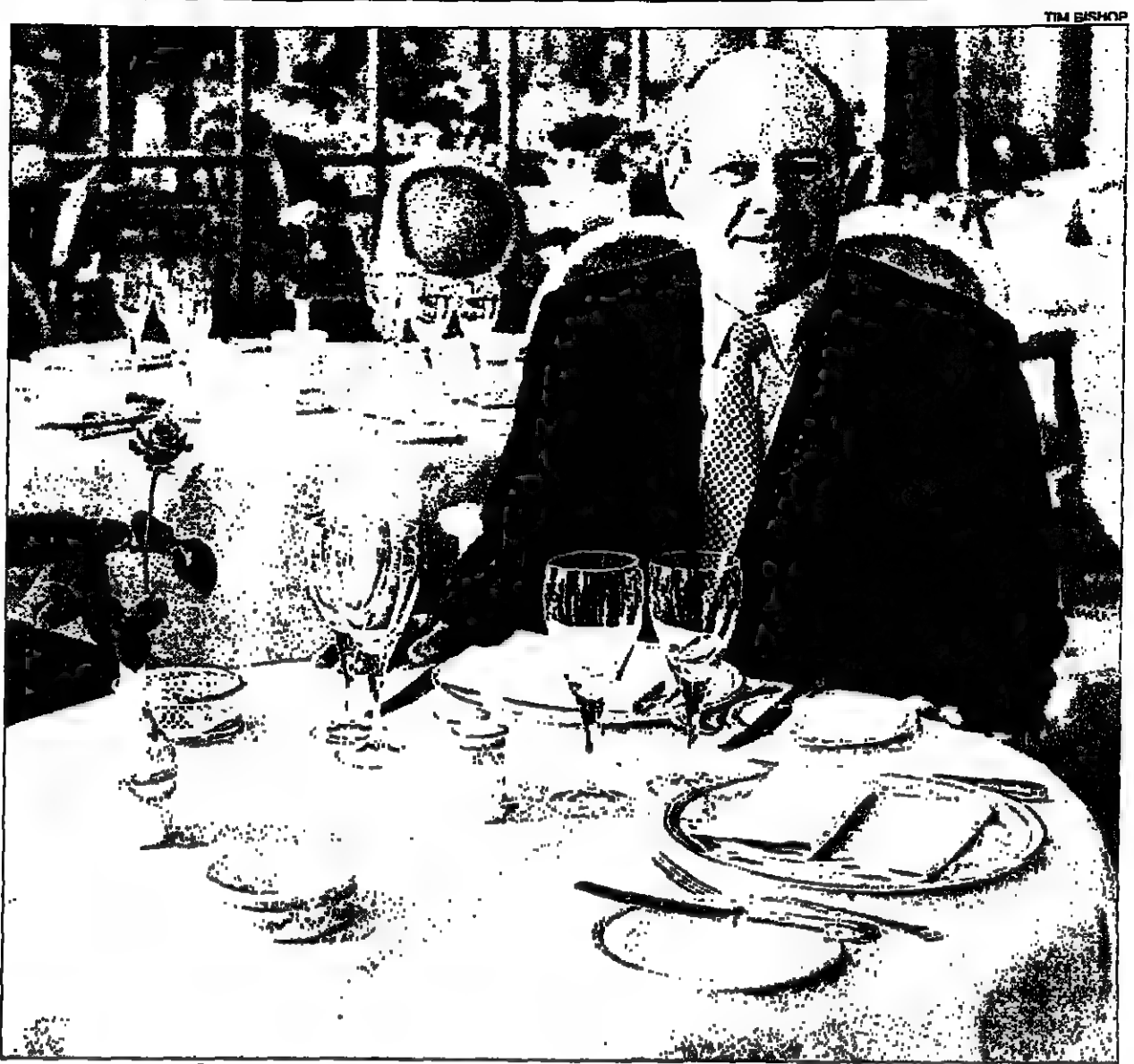
Assuming Trafalgar's bid is successful, Davy will retain its identity within Trafalgar's construction and engineering division.

Its process plant operations will complement Trafalgar's John Brown subsidiary, while Monk, Davy's general contractor, will operate alongside Cementation and Trollope & Colls. Sir Eric said the division could have an overall turnover approaching £4 billion.

If the bid is successful and the rights issue is approved by Trafalgar's shareholders, the company's gearing will drop from 55 per cent to about 45 per cent.

If a third party makes a successful bid for Davy, however, and Trafalgar is left with its rights issue proceeds, gearing would drop to less than 20 per cent.

Comment, page 23



"Marvellous deal": Sir Eric Parker at the Ritz, London, after announcing the planned Davy merger yesterday

Business magazine folds after five years

By JON ASHWORTH

THE flagship of the monthly financial press, *Business* magazine, is to close after five loss-making years. Owned jointly by Conde Nast publications and Financial Times publications, the journal has become the latest victim of a recession that has claimed several titles and cut advertising income.

David Palmer, chief executive of the Financial Times, said *Business* had never come close to making a profit since its launch in February 1986. He said advertising revenue had slumped 20 per cent this year, prompting the decision to close the magazine.

Mr Palmer said: "About 18 months ago we thought we could see the light at the end of the tunnel. Then the recession took hold and the tunnel got extremely long again. The magazine was not yet anywhere near breakeven."

Business, founded by Kevin Kelly, the Irish entrepreneur publisher, and later sold to the publishing group, is believed to have run up operating losses of £1 million last year. Total losses to the FT and Conde Nast are estimated at £6 million.

Mr Palmer and Daniel Salem, chairman of Conde Nast, told staff at the magazine's offices in the King's Road, Chelsea, yesterday afternoon that all 26 employees are to lose their jobs.

Christopher Parkes, appointed editor 18 months ago, and a former FT journalist, said he had been given two years to turn the magazine around. "We set ourselves targets and in six months were hitting all of them," Mr Parkes said. "Then in September 1990 the roof fell in. The advertising has knocked us flat."

Business had a confirmed circulation of 47,000 readers, mainly in the AB groups.

Comment, page 23

Beazer falls on warning

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SHARES in Beazer, the debt-laden construction group, plunged 30p to 116p last night as Brian Beazer, the chairman, issued a profits warning and a thinly veiled hint of a big dividend cut.

The grim tidings accompanied confirmation that Beazer is to sell its entire European operations, including the British housebuilding business on which the group was founded.

Beazer Europe will be renamed CH Beazer (Holdings), operating under an independent board, and will be sold through a public offer about the end of September. Market sources believe the group would aim to raise between £400 million and £500 million, which will be used to

reduce Beazer's huge debts. Mr Beazer indicated that group borrowings have swollen from less than £800 million to about £1 billion in recent months, indicating a net gearing level of 94 per cent, in the wake of lower than expected trading in the second half and the big swing in the dollar since February.

Virtually all of Beazer's debt is dollar-denominated, the bulk of it relating to the group's \$1.8 billion purchase of Koppers in 1988.

Mr Beazer denied that the sale was being conducted under pressure from creditors, but the announcement came after a lengthy meeting with the group's bankers at which the board was seeking a complete overhaul of its debt structure.

The statement said that Beazer profits for the year ending June 30 would be "close to the lower end of analysts' current expectations." This suggests a pre-tax outcome of about £65 million.

Mr Beazer added that the group was to "re-examine its dividend policy" in respect of the current year, and that after the flotation the intention was to establish a dividend policy and payout ratio more in line with other American building materials group. Analysts said this could mean that the Beazer dividend, 7.75p last year, could be halved.

Comment, page 23

Trainees lose jobs at PW

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PRICE Waterhouse has made 180 of its accountants redundant, including some who are less than four weeks away from their final professional exams.

The accountancy firm has cut the jobs in its audit and business advisory services in Britain, even though it is gaining market share and is planning to recruit more than 600 graduates this autumn.

The firm blamed the job losses on a fall in the rate of departures among newly qualified accountants.

Price summoned the accountants to its offices by courier yesterday morning. Some were on their way to final revision classes for their exams. Price has offered to pay for any resits if the trainees fail their exams next month.

Most of the accountants were shocked to hear the news since they had been assured by partners that there would be no job cuts. "My exams are four weeks away," said one tearful final year trainee who lost her job. "I will do my best but this makes things difficult."

Price joins a growing list of accountancy firms that have shed jobs, since audit fees have come under pressure by companies looking to cut costs.

that Mr Walker's removal was a condition of the restructuring. He said: "The banks have made it such a cardinal point that there is no reason for them to go back on it."

Mr Walker later said that Lord Kindersley had investigated his removal as chief executive by telling the banks he would resign unless Mr Walker left. He said: "The chairman has never felt comfortable with my large shareholding."

Lord Kindersley said he had told the banks that the business plan was not feasible unless Mr Walker resigned.

Brent is reaching a critical stage in its refinancing, which will save it from administration or receivership. The company hopes to have the agreement of its 47 banks by the end of the week.

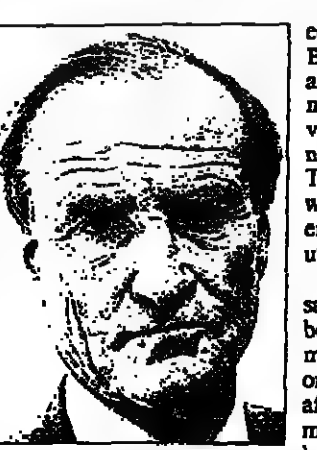
George Walker fights his corner

By NEIL BENNETT

THE rift in Brent Walker's boardroom was as wide as the Cafe Royal platform at a shareholders' meeting in London yesterday, when George Walker, the former chief executive and founder, accused Lord Kindersley, the chairman, of conspiring to sack him and appealed to shareholders not to vote him off the board.

Mr Walker clashed repeatedly with Lord Kindersley in front of shareholders at the meeting at the Cafe Royal, called to agree an increase in the debt-loaded group's borrowing powers. He earlier handed shareholders a letter asking for their support.

Mr Walker denied his removal was a condition from the banks' for their agreement to Brent's £1.4 billion



Lord Kindersley: accused restructuring. He said he had supporting from at least three banks to stay on the board.

Mr Walker, his wife, and John Hemmingsway, are fighting to stay as non-executive directors, after losing their ex-

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£10,000	£112	£50
£15,000	£135	£50
£20,000	£153	£50

*Based on a Fidelity survey of commission charges of 8 stockbrokers offering a similar execution-only service as at April 1991

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Recession depresses DTC 56%

PRE-TAX profits at Debenhams Tewson & Chinnocks, the property agent, fell 56 per cent to £4.1 million in the year to end-April, due to the commercial property market slump.

DTC has cut its final dividend to 3.6p (5.3p) for a total of 6p (7.7p). Richard Lay, the chairman, said staff numbers had been cut by 83 to 670 in the period, and had fallen further since the year end. The decline was the company's first since flotation in 1987.

Expedier warns

Shares in Expedier Leisure fell from 30p to 24p after the corporate hospitality company gave warning of a £1 million loss for the six months to end-June because of a downturn in trading in April and May. In the first half of the previous financial year, taxable profits were £584,000.

USH link-up

United Scientific Holdings is selling a 15 per cent holding in Soplex, a producer of military electro-optical equipment to Société de Fabrication d'Instruments de Mesure, of France. USH and SFIM will collaborate on projects including the Challenger 2 tank for the defence ministry.

Resources win

Great Western Resources, the natural resources company, has won a temporary restraining order preventing South Carolina Public Service Authority of America from withholding further payments due to a subsidiary, Great Western Coal, while legal action continues.

Westport loss

Westport Group has passed its dividend (0.6p) after suffering a pre-tax loss of £1.08 million (£2.06 million profit) in the year to end-April. Turnover fell to £18.2 million (£18.8 million). There is a 0.7p loss (1.3p earnings) per share.

Nylex clearance

Australia's trade practices commission has conditionally cleared the planned takeover of Smorgon Consolidated Industries' glass containers division by BTR Nylex.

Trust bid lapses

A hostile takeover bid by Anglo Scandinavian Investment Trust for the rival Lancashire & London Investment Trust has lapsed.

National Power generates £479m profit

By MARTIN WALLER

NATIONAL Power, whose chief executive, John Baker, is the latest head of a privatised business to prompt arguments over his salary, easily beat the financial forecasts it gave at the time of the flotation earlier this year.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-March came in at £479 million, against a forecast of £465 million. The pro forma figure, worked out on the assumption that the group's capital structure, including £480 million of debt injected by the government in January, had been in place all year, was £434 million, against a forecast of £420 million. Pro forma earnings per share were 23.54p. National Power is paying a 5.5p dividend, fractionally ahead of the promised 5.49p.

There are 1.1 million shareholders, against 1.6 million at the time of the flotation, National Power said yesterday.

Mr Baker said the programme of cost reductions had continued, with 2,900 megawatts of redundant and least-valuable plant identified for closure. He said: "Further plant closures can be anticipated." Manpower had fallen 1,760 in the past year, and over the next 18 months corporate overheads would be at least halved.

Brian Birkenhead, the finance director, gave a warning that the low price of electricity in the "pool", the competitive market created with the industry's privatisation, could threaten future investment in the industry. He said: "Currently, pool prices include virtually nothing for capacity and even energy prices are being depressed by the large take or pay contracts with British Coal."

National Power had for the first time entered a consortium to explore for North Sea gas, providing a bid which had been successful in the 12th round of licensing. As a result of successful negotiations with the 12 electricity distributors in England and Wales, and large electricity users, about 97 per cent of output was the subject of contracts for the current year.

Electricity demand was relatively stagnant in the first few months of this financial year, but was having no major impact on the business. Mr Baker said trading to date had been satisfactory.

The first figures from National Power show that the privatisation process had cost £47 million: £29 million from the offer for sale and another £18 million from other costs.

Water chief attacks regulator



Criticising the critic: William Courtney, the chairman of Southern Water

Southern payout up 17.8%

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

WILLIAM Courtney, the chairman of Southern Water, has criticised Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, for issuing too many damaging public pronouncements. Mr Byatt has issued 56 public letters to managing directors and 34 general letters to finance directors.

Mr Courtney said: "I am concerned with the volume of announcements from Ofwat and the uncertainty and volatility they lead to in the marketplace." He also complained that the regulator was costing Southern and its customers £1.25 million a year and asking for ever more complex information.

Mr Courtney made his remarks after announcing a 17.8 per cent rise in dividend to 17.7p from earnings of 53.4p per share for the year to end-March.

Mr Byatt has told finance directors he will comment on their profits and dividends before the end of the month.

Southern's pre-tax profits rose by an effective 15.5 per cent to £97.1 million. The volume of metered water sales fell about 2.5 per cent. Revenue from trade effluent fell 15 per cent.

Times, page 23

The Blue Arrow trial

Frost denies being 'first to lifeboat'

TOM Frost, chief executive of National Westminster Bank, was accused of using his position to be the "first to the lifeboat" in the Blue Arrow affair.

Mr Frost, a prosecution witness, was also said to have lied to a trade department enquiry and attempted to distance himself from Blue Arrow's £837 million rights issue in 1987. The issue was arranged by County NatWest, the bank's merchant bank.

He denied taking an active interest in all the important stages of the transaction and said he was "certainly not involved in any of the detail".

Alum Jones, QC, defending Stephen Clark, County's group finance director, at the Old Bailey, sitting at Chichester Rents, alleged: "In 1988 and 1989, you as captain of the ship made your way first to the lifeboat and used your position to deceive the Department of Trade as to your understanding of this transaction."

Mr Frost, replied: "I refute that entirely."

Mr Frost later referred to a series of documents sent to the chief executive. Counsel said it was reported to the Bank of England that Mr Frost, Charles and Terry Green, the

two deputy chief executives, and John Plawow, another NatWest executive, were aware of the transaction. Asked for his view, Mr Frost countered: "It is one of those annoying generalisations. In broad terms we were aware of the risk of the transaction."

Mr Jones: "Are you seeking to distance yourself from this transaction?"

Mr Frost: "I am just trying to tell you how it was." Counsel added that the witness later told the trade department that apart from the sanctioning meeting of July 30, 1987, he had no "specific recollection" of the Blue Arrow deal until after the market crash. Mr Jones: "In the light of documents I have put to you, I am suggesting you were not telling the truth to the DTI in that statement?"

Mr Frost: "I certainly was telling the truth." He said he "would not dream" of lying to a government enquiry.

County, NatWest Investment Bank, its parent, UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, and seven individuals deny conspiring to dishonestly mislead the market over the outcome of the issue.

The trial continues today.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TI to pay £46m for Dover Corp seal firm

TI GROUP, the industrial holding company, has agreed to pay up to £46 million for the marine seals activities of Dover Corporation, an American industrial manufacturer, including a controlling interest in a Japanese associate.

TI, which earlier this month also announced the acquisition of an American vehicle fuel lines company for £27.4 million, is funding the latest deal from existing cash and borrowing facilities. The agreement with Dover includes a 50.14 per cent shareholding in Dover Japan, a manufacturer of seals for commercial shipping, for £5.7 billion (£25 million). In 1990 Dover Japan had sales of £14.4 million and earned pre-tax profits of £2.7 million. At December 31, last year, net assets were £10 million.

Granada rights take-up

GRANADA, the television, leisure and business services group, said it has received acceptances in respect of 92,702,019 new ordinary shares, or 77.26 per cent of its £163 million one-for-three rights issue. It said subscribers had been procured for the remaining portion of the rights issue at a premium of 36p per share, before expenses, over the 140p subscription price.

Stainless passes payout

STAINLESS Metalcraft, the precision components manufacturer, is again passing payment of an interim dividend but reduced interim pre-tax losses from £256,000 to £195,000 to end-February. The loss per share was 2.5p (3.3p loss). Directors said payment of a final dividend would be reviewed later in the year. Last year the final dividend was maintained at 1p a share.

Jasmine to buy clubs

JASMINE, headed by Warren Tuddenham, former managing director of Pleasura, is to acquire eight London bingo clubs from Rank Organisation for nearly £10 million. Mr Tuddenham, aged 54, and Leslie Hurst, a former Rank executive, have formed Jasmine. The company has agreed to buy the clubs, which Rank must sell under an agreement with the trade department, after its acquisition of Mecca Leisure. Mr Tuddenham was managing director of Pleasura, the casino and bingo club operator, until its acquisition by Mecca in November 1988.

Greenwich write-off

GREENWICH Resources, the gold-mining group, has written off its £1.47 million investment in Egypt and the Gebel mine in Sudan. The board says it is unlikely that either will produce a return on the investment, so full provision will be made in the accounts for the year to end-March. Greenwich made a pre-tax profit of £86,000 (loss of £819,000) for the year.

Guinness to buy in Spain

GUINNESS is to move further into the Spanish drinks market with a £34 million deal for Union Cervecera, the brewer, subject to Spanish monopolies clearance. The deal will be made at 250 pence (£1.30) a share maximum by Cruzcampo, group's subsidiary. Carlsberg, the Danish brewer that controls Union Cervecera, will emerge with 10 per cent in Cruzcampo.

Halma dips to £13.3m

DIFFICULT trading conditions affecting Halma, the safety, security and environmental control group, led to a 6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £13.3 million (£14.1 million) in the year to end-March. Group turnover rose to £81.9 million (£78.1 million), with overseas sales ahead 13 per cent to £34.2 million. European sales jumped 30 per cent to £13.8 million. The final dividend is 1.42p (1.136p), making a total of 2.34p (1.843p). Earnings per share slip to 9.08p (9.74p). The directors are recommending a one-for-three scrip issue. Closure costs resulted in an extraordinary debit of £1.08 million.

NSM falls on loss in second half

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE depression in the construction and property markets and the low price of coal in America, sent NSM, the former Burnett and Hallamshire mining and building products group, into the red in the second half. Pre-tax profits tumbled £26.2 million to £3.77 million in the year.

There is no final dividend, leaving the year's total at the 0.5p paid halfway, against 3.5p for the full year last time. John Jermaine, the chief executive appointed earlier this year after the group issued the warning of a second-half loss, said the priority was to reduce the debt mountain.

NSM owes £65 million to its banks and another £30 million in operating leases secured on plant and other assets. Operating profits for the year tumbled from £34.7 million to £12.8 million, while interest payments rose £500,000 to £9.01 million. The sharpest decline came from the Bison subsidiary, which contributed a £14 million profit the previous year, £5.6 million in the first half of 1990-1 and a £1 million loss in the second half.

The shares edged ahead 1½p to 14p.

Irish sea bridged in biscuit buy

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

IN A demonstration of European business at its best, the French have brought together two sister biscuit companies separated for 70 years by the Irish sea and Anglo-Irish politics. BSN, the French food and drinks group that owns Jacob's Bakery, the British business, has made a £54.3 million (£54.3 million) recommended offer for W & R Jacob, the Dublin group.

The Irish group, founded in 1851, has 50 per cent of the Irish biscuit market and branched out in 1912 to start Jacob's Bakery, a biscuit business outside Liverpool. After the creation of the Irish state in 1922, the two Jacob companies separated and both subsequently went public. Jacob's Bakery in Britain was bought by BSN in 1989 from Nabisco.

BSN, which already had a 29.6 per cent stake in W & R Jacob, is offering £25 for every ordinary share in the Irish group and £1 for each preference share. The offer represents a premium of 72.4 per cent above Jacob's price of £29.90 on June 24.

BSN has two non-executive directors on the W & R Jacob board, Philippe Jaecquin and



Riboud: dairy interests

Christian Laubie. The two groups have had close links for some time and have identified areas of mutual advantage in combining their businesses. Jacob will have access to BSN's management skills and financial resources and BSN will be able to distribute complementary brands through Jacob's network.

These are unlikely to be the last of the group's British acquisitions. Antoine Riboud, the chairman, has expressed an interest in acquiring British dairy products. Prime contenders could be Express Dairies, the Eden Vale and Ski Yogurt group owned by Grand Metropolitan and Unigate, which owns St Ivel.

Bonus buy by Danka costs £2m

By PHILIP PANGLOSS

DANKA Business Systems, the Unlisted Securities Market quoted company that distributes, services and installs office equipment in America, is making a £2.06 million payment as a 70 per cent buyout of its chief executive's future bonus entitlement.

In its preliminary results, Danka has made a £2.23 million extraordinary charge, which includes £2.06 million in respect of the partial buyout of Dan Doyle, the chief executive's performance-related bonus entitlement and £173,000 for costs of the introduction of the company's shares to the official list.

Mark Vaughan-Lee, Danka's chairman, said that Mr Doyle would have been entitled to about £2.8 million. Profits have increased from £3 million to £19 million. The company plans to raise its dividend 25 per cent after pre-tax profits rose 9 per cent to £9.35 million (£8.46 million) in the year to end-March. Danka is seeking a full listing. The group saw turnover rise to £93.8 million (£88.7 million). Earnings per share climb to 23.1p (20.7p). The final dividend is increased to 2p (1.6p), making 3p (2.4p).

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COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

SIMS FOOD GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £22.2m (£8.07m)
EPS: 23.0p (22.5p)
Div: 7.61p, mkg 10.25p

SOUNDTRACKS (Int)
Pre-tax: £195,000
EPS: 1.29p (2.44p)
Div: 0.85p (0.85p)

PLATON INTNL (Fin)
Pre-tax: £484,000 Loss
LPS: 5.1p (EPS: 5.7p)
Div: None

AF BULGIN (Fin)
Pre-tax: £505,000 Loss
LPS: 1.21p (EPS: 0.95p)
Div: 0.7p, mkg 0.1p

JONES & SHIPMAN (Fin)
Pre-tax: £980,000 Loss
LPS: 8.2p (EPS: 10.4p)
Div: Nil, mkg 1p (6p)

AUKETT ASSOCIATES
Pre-tax: £740,000
EPS: 3.42p (4.52p)
Div: 1.25p (1.50p)

EFG (Int)
Pre-tax: £22.07m Loss
LPS: 12.55p (EPS: 2.31p)
Div: Nil (1.25p)

Last time's total dividend was 9.83p. Turnover rose to £228m (£188m). There was an extraordinary debit of £249,000. Gearing was 40 per cent.

Last time's profit was £375,000. Company said that it has had an overwhelming response and a record order book for its new products.

Last time's profit was £408,000. There was an exceptional debit of £410,000. Turnover increased to £8.56m (£5.18m).

Last time's profit was £356,000. Last time's total dividend was 0.2p. There was an exceptional charge of £562,000. Turnover was £14.1m.

Comparatives are for 15 months. Last time's profit was £2.07m. Sales dived to £22.4m (£30.9m). Redundancy costs came to £1.01m.

Interim results. Last time's profit was £947,000. Company said that work done is comparable with 1990 in spite of construction recession.

Last time's profit was £495,000. Turnover fell to £22.8m (£25.4m). There was an extraordinary debit of £125,000. Interest costs jumped.

MICROLEC (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.85m (£2.10m)
EPS: 9.32p (12.07p)
Div: 2.8p, mkg 4.15p

NORTHUMBRIAN FINE FD
Pre-tax: £263,940
EPS: 0.51p (LPS: 3.03p)
Div: 1p, mkg 1.75p

CELTIC GOLD (Fin)
Pre-tax: £248,000 Loss
LPS: n/a
Div: n/a

Last time's total dividend was 4p. Turnover grew to £20m (£18m). There was a £270,000 interest gain, against last time's £88,000 debit.

Final results. Last time's loss was £279,173. Last time's total dividend was 1.5p. Turnover rose to £7.89m (£6.91m).

All figures are in Irish currency. Last time's loss was £92,000. There was an exceptional debit of £245,000.

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Trafalgar crews the Davy lifeboat

COMMENT

Trafalgar House has undertaken a bold move in bidding for the cash strapped Davy Corporation, and the stock market is rattled. Davy is a leader in the process plant and heavy engineering contracting industry. But having wrecked its finances through a single disastrous rig conversion contract lost its credibility and its independence at a stroke. Last week's announcement of huge losses and the sale of almost all its operating assets was a receivership in all but name.

Worse, this is the fourth time in recent years that Davy has run into severe problems. To cap all of this, many Trafalgar House shareholders were expecting the company to be the target for a bid rather than the reverse. There was an air of burnt flesh around the market yesterday.

From the standpoint of Great Britain plc, Trafalgar's bid is welcome. Our process plant contracting business is littered with tales of woe as one by one the leading companies have run into rogue contracts that have brought them close to ruin. Margins in the business have

become murderously thin and a single large scale error, an ever present possibility, can wipe out all but the largest and strongest. The likely alternative to Trafalgar was a break-up with either the French group, Spie Batignole (a 15 per cent shareholder in Davy) or the German group Mannesmann, cherry picking the best and leaving shareholders with the rest.

Trafalgar has spent the past five or six weeks looking at Davy's troubles, which include the completion of the rig conversion on time and within Trafalgar's new budget, before the end of the year. Neither Mannesmann nor Spie Batignole are likely to enthuse about entering the lists as counterbidders for the whole company and assuming liability for the rig conversion.

Trafalgar sees the incorporation of Davy, alongside its own highly successful John Brown subsidiary as a platform for the

creation of an engineering and construction services business which can play in the world league. Davy has unique technology which fits far more comfortably inside a group with far bigger resources than ever it could muster on its own.

The rights issue, which it launched to finance the bid, had to be tailored to suit Trafalgar's severe advanced corporation tax problem. It will clearly be a year or two before Davy makes a contribution to domestic earnings and thus begins to solve the ACT difficulty.

Kleinwort Benson has put together a funding which solves the problem. The shares offered to fund the acquisition attract scrip dividends initially. Provided shareholders make no distinction between scrip and cash, Trafalgar's high and solid

yield remains intact. The judgment of history will depend on the rig delivery being completed on time and to specification.

The timetable has been slipping, and the North Sea weather window which closes in the autumn, is already uncomfortably close. The price offered by Trafalgar represents by far the most attractive option for Davy's shareholders. But if all the risks have been correctly assessed, Trafalgar will have won a prize asset at a bargain price.

Beazer sells

Beazer's un-bundling marks one more chapter of an ignominious era for British companies buying in America. Soaring stock market values and seemingly bottomless bank over-

draft facilities in the late 1980s generated a string of mega-bids by the Brits, many of which have ended in tears.

The Beazer capitulation comes in a week that has seen Martin Sorrell face hostile questioning on WPP's debts as the group continues to flounder in the wake of its purchase of J Walter Thompson, and which sees the interminable Blue Arrow trial, which centres on events following that group's \$1 billion plus purchase of Manpower, winding its way through the courts.

Brian Beazer seemed to have been on a treadmill since the day he concluded the purchase of Koppers, the Pittsburgh building materials group.

Early hopes of disposals to recoup some of the outlaid cash were never fully realised, and little impression has been made on the horrendous group debt since the deal was done in 1988. The final straw was the irresistible surge in the dollar this

year, which has swept borrowings up from about £770 million in February to a current figure of about £1 billion. And all at a time when recession was strangling the group's profitability.

The hand of the banks can be detected in the decision to float the entire European business at the earliest opportunity. Yesterday's lengthy meeting between Mr Beazer, who only last month lost his deputy chairman and architect of the Koppers deal, John Matthews, and his chief creditors is likely to have been an uncomfortable one.

Whether Beazer can achieve the £500 million it believes Beazer Europe to be worth is open to some scepticism the way the market is at present. Back-of-the-envelope figures suggest that it would do well to achieve 12 times earnings, given that the Beazer association is more likely to prove a hindrance than a help at present. This would indicate a price of nearer £400 million.

Shareholders' interests might well be better served by awaiting some evidence of economic recovery. But the bankers are finally calling the tune at Beazer.

LAST year's privatisation of the power industry created the creation of an open market in electricity. It also meant an open market in executives' salaries, a point worth noting amid the furore over John Baker's \$8 per cent pay rise.

National Power's first figures as a quoted company offer little that is fresh, given that the prospectus was drawn up only weeks before the March 31 financial year end.

The forecasts were comfortably and inevitably exceeded, more out of corporate *amour propre*, it can be assumed, than because of an unforeseen demand surge from the cold and wet March weather. The dreary summer since is likely to have only a marginal effect, because of the contractual basis upon which almost all the output goes to the electricity distributors; National Power says any beneficial effect has been countered by the economic downturn.

Pre-tax profits were £14 million higher than forecast, at £479 million, while the 5.5p dividend paid is fractionally ahead. The group is proceeding with its restructuring, the key to performance over the next decade, trimming overheads and cutting out uneconomic plant. Almost 2,000 jobs went during the year and on the company's figures, another 3,000-plus must go over the next four years. Industry estimates put the actual figure needed even higher than that.

Political risks still loom large, with the government, of whatever hue, sitting on 40 per cent. The end of the existing fixed contracts with British Coal in 1993 represents a significant opportunity, but to take full advantage the generators need the new port facilities through which imported coal can flow.

The Scottish flotation gave a clear lead on how the market valued the industry, as the shares failed to achieve the runaway premiums of the earlier floats. National Power were 24p ahead at 135p last night, at which they yield a prospective 5.8 per cent, a touch higher than the Scots but well behind the 6.5 to 7 per cent on offer from the distributors. Those differentials look fair enough for now.

Southern Water

TWO camps have emerged among the ten privatised water service groups this year, and partly through lower than expected costs and using cheaper innovative solutions to meet obligations.

No problem for National Power in hitting target



Pay furore: John Baker, National Power chairman

against Ian Byatt's increasing demands and interference.

On the surface, Southern seems more vulnerable than most to an early price limit review. Through no fault of its own, Southern's £141 million of capital spending in 1990-91 was about £10 million less than budgeted, despite bringing forward some spending to counter drought.

This was partly due to a government-requested pause on new sewage outfalls to update plans for the latest EC requirements, which will have greater impact this year, and partly through lower than expected costs and using cheaper innovative solutions to meet obligations.

Southern has voluntarily forgone 0.5 per cent on 1991-92 prices, but this does not fully account for the delays. Otherwise, the group would have suffered from the surprising 2.5 per cent loss of volume that left 1990-91 core business turnover up less than 11 per cent against price increases of 13.2 per cent. In the complex regulations, volume losses are down to shareholders.

The 17.8 per cent dividend rise, in line with the interim, is also at the top end. William Courtney, the chairman, said this partly compensated for the relatively low yield at which the shares were issued.

which has kept them about the bottom of the league.

The immediate regulatory threat should not be exaggerated. Diversified activities, once seen as a risk at Southern, have proved cautious and profitable, contributing £6 million that, the company might argue, paid for the extra dividend. But, eventually, Southern will probably have to absorb the estimated £100 million extra cost of the upgraded outfalls.

The shares, up 2p to 240p, yield an above average 7.6 per cent and sell at only 5.8 times earnings, which should rise this year, partly thanks to an exceptional £7 million profit from sales of water company shares. Southern offers good, long-term value but may remain relatively low-rated.

Morland & Co

THE Whitbread Investment Company, in electing to take up its rights at Morland & Co, may have limited any immediate damage to the Oxfordshire brewer's share price, but Peter Lilley's shadow will continue to fall across the market.

WIC owns 43.6 per cent of the Morland equity, but with its Whitbread parent under pressure from the DTI to slim down its tied estate, it is likely to have to reduce its holding before 1992 is out.

Coming after its surprise intervention in the Boddington/Devenish bid battle, this move is hardly conducive to clearer understanding of WIC investment policy.

Meanwhile, the deal with Courage brings 101 Thames Valley pubs into the Morland estate at about £160,000 apiece, increasing the chain by about 50 per cent. Morland has concluded, like most regional brewers, that its future in the industry's new dawn is in retail.

The pubs will guarantee more outlets for Morland's under-used brewing capacity, bring in additional net rental income and, given the snug fit with current estate, improve distribution efficiency.

Analysts have lifted their forecasts for the year ending next September to about £7 million, against £6.1 million previously, to produce earnings of just above 20p per share. That suggests an earnings multiple of about 10.6 at the 301p ex rights price.

WIC evidently believes that, if it must sell, it will be able to realise a better price in the next 18 months, but, until its intentions are clearer, there may be some underperformance.

Coleridge faces storm at Lloyd's

THE CITY will come to a standstill this morning as representatives of the 32,000 Lloyd's members crowd into the insurance market's headquarters for one of the tensest meetings in its 200-year history.

David Coleridge, the chairman of Lloyd's, has the unenviable task of telling his audience that Lloyd's underwriting syndicates lost more than £500 million in 1988, since the market reports its figures three years in arrears, and that losses for 1989 threaten to be far worse.

When he finishes, he will be barraged by questions from angry names, the people who back the market, many of whom face financial ruin, and thousands of whom are suing the insurers and agents which they believe are to blame for the losses.

The meeting will be a baptism of fire for Mr Coleridge, who took over as chairman at the start of the year as a golden period for Lloyd's, during which profits and membership reached record

highs, came to an end. His only consolation will be that the press, barred from the meeting, will not be there to witness his discomfort.

Names will sit around the Lutine Bell, which is traditionally rung to warn the market of a disaster. Strangely, it will remain silent.

There may be a clutch of well-known faces in the crowd; Edward Heath and John

Lloyd's hardship committee, formed to assist impoverished names. The 4,700 working names, the underwriters, will watch the proceedings from the balconies.

Annual meetings at Lloyd's have generally been low-key affairs, attended by the professionals and only a few hundred of the most committed names. The rest were happy enough to bank the

Names will sit around the Lutine Bell, which is traditionally rung to warn the market of a disaster. Strangely, it will remain silent.

Wakeham, the Conservative politician, Robert Maxwell, the publisher, Tony Jacklin, the golfer, and Susan Hampshire, the actress, are among other celebrities, all names.

Mr Coleridge will face them, his back protected by the other 27 members of Lloyd's council. These include Mary Archer, wife of the novelist and head of the

market's profits, which reached £509 million in 1987.

The losses for 1988, which stem from the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster and a slump in premium rates, have stirred anger among names and given rise to a flurry of writs. Up to 6,000 names are estimated to be considering legal action against underwriters or agents. The 1988 loss was the first

at Lloyd's for 20 years. What has made it so devastating is not only its record size, but the fact that many less wealthy people were tempted to join the market in the mid-Eighties to help boost its underwriting capacity. Unlike Lloyd's traditional backers, they do not have the liquid assets to pay for the losses and some will lose all their savings and even their homes.

Among the audience will be Tom Benyon, the former Conservative MP, who this week formed the Society of Names at Lloyd's to help names take action to recover their losses. Mr Benyon is expected to quiz Mr Coleridge on his attitude towards the names.

Mr Coleridge will be relieved when he can bring the two-hour meeting to a close and retire to the sumptuous agency surroundings of the Adam Room for a buffet lunch with the other council members. His only worry is that he will have to run the gauntlet again next year.

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

SURELY THE MARKET LEADER IN CURRENCY WARRANTS IN GERMANY HAS TO BE GERMAN?

Certainly the leader in Germany for currency warrants is German. It is Trinkaus und Burkhardt KGaA, headquartered in Düsseldorf.

With branches in key German business centres and over 2500 corporate clients, Trinkaus combines merchant banking skills with private banking and a balance sheet of DM 8.3 billion. In addition it manages funds of over DM 20 billion.

An outright leader in innovative products, Trinkaus is also a founder member of the Deutsche Termin Börsen - the German futures market. And it is in the top four in DM euro-bond issues with a 12% market share.

Yet Trinkaus is also part of Midland Group's merchant banking network. Their joint corporate finance arm, Trinkaus Montagu, in association with Samuel Montagu in the UK, advised British Steel when they acquired the sectional steel division of Klöckner-Werke AG.

It's just one example of the power of our network. So if you're interested in business opportunities in Europe, we think you now know exactly where to start.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Batting for Britain

THE British economy will soon be on the mend, and the England cricket team is the proof. Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte has compared the team's performance with the ups and downs of the economy. Taken over ten years, it found that the cricketers have an uncanny knack of showing in which direction the economy will go. Real growth in GDP peaked about two years after England won back the Ashes, and now appears to have hit its low, just as our cricketing prospects sunk into the doldrums with the rebel tour of South Africa in 1989. Now, cricket is storming ahead and a financial recovery should follow by the autumn.

Vicious circle

SALES executives at Smith New Court's spanking new offices in Farringdon were all steamed up yesterday. It seems that the firm's air-

conditioning broke down, and several members of staff decided to take a dip in the SNC pool to cool off. They were out of luck. For a water main had burst under the offices, flooding the pool and triggering the collapse of the air-conditioning system. Sounds like one of those days...

PUBLISHERS of the American edition of Easy Sky Diving have hurriedly recalled all copies of the book to insert a note reading: "Please make the following correction. On page 8, line 7, 'State zip code' should read 'Pull rip cord'."

Advantage phone

NOT everyone has been caught out by the unsporting weather that has so dismayed fans and tourists at Wimbledon. NEI DAC, part of the Rolls-Royce group, has supplied weatherproof telephones on all the umpire's chairs at Wimbledon, connecting the 18 courts to the referee. "They can be safely left in situ even during inclement weather,"

including the torrential downpours that have been a part of the Wimbledon scene during recent years," the company boasts.

Heads or tails

DEALERS returning from a gold conference in Vienna have been chuckling over the following dirty:

To the land of lakes and waltzes
From around the world they came,
To learn from market sages
To play the bullion game.

They heard of options, bonds and swaps,
Of charts and trendlines too.
They talked of peaks and dips and troughs
And systems old and new.

Then armed with all this information
They boldly went back home
To spread the word around the nation
That gold's next moves are known.

Real life however's not like this

The best theory often fails
The wisest of us spin a coin
And just call "heads or tails?"

Crowd control

BOARD meetings and annual meetings may occasionally be unruly affairs, but surely the City has not yet descended to the level of soccer hooligans.

The National Computer Centre, based in Manchester, is offering visitors to the Multimedia '91 exhibition at Olympia the chance to control 50,000 excited fans at a football match in a video simulation. John Eary, the man behind the idea, adds ominously: "Although it was developed to help police officers in crowd control the potential is there to be adapted to other allied emergency services or to management decision training." A riot at Broadgate, perhaps?

JOHN ASHWORTH

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	2950	2951	2952	2953	2954	2955	2956	2957	2958	2959	2960	2961	2962	2963	2964	2965	2966	2967	2968	2969	2970	2971	2972	2973	2974	2975	2976	2977	2978	2979	2980	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Top Billing
The new film "The Untouchables" is a classic example of the "good guy" vs. "bad guy" theme.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report June 26 1991

Court of Appeal

Challenging refusal of leave to enter

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte Muboyayi
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Taylor
[Reasons June 25]

Where a person detained pending removal from the United Kingdom sought to challenge the underlying administrative decision refusing him leave to enter, his proper course was to apply for judicial review of that decision and not to seek the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus*. The Court of Appeal so stated in giving reasons for allowing an appeal by the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Chief Adjudication Officer, Gatwick Airport, from Mr Justice Brooke's decision in *Ex parte Muboyayi*, a citizen of Zaire seeking political asylum who had been refused leave to enter the United Kingdom and detained pending removal to France, had issued a writ of *habeas corpus* requiring the Chief Adjudication Officer at Gatwick Airport to produce the applicant before the High Court on June 19.

Mr Robert Jay for the Secretary of State and the Chief Immigration Officer, Mr Michael Strimington and Miss Judith Maxwell for the applicant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the applicant had left Zaire, travelling first to Italy and then to France before arriving in the United Kingdom where he sought leave to enter. He was refused leave, given notice of intention to remove him to France and was detained pending removal.

The Home Office rejected representations that his application for asylum would not be properly considered by France. He applied for the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus* shortly before he was to be removed. On the hearing, the judge asked for an undertaking that the removal would be delayed until he had had an opportunity of considering the matter.

Mr Jay, having no express authority to give such an undertaking, and fearing that it might not have been acceptable to prevent the removal, declined to do so. His Lordship emphasised that in the unusual circumstances Mr Jay was in no way to be criticised for the position he had adopted.

The essence of Mr Jay's argument on the appeal was that the proper procedure for advancing the applicant's complaint was to seek leave to apply for judicial review of the decision to refuse leave to enter, and that unless and until that decision was quashed the applicant's detention was unlawful.

Mr Strimington argued that on the return of a writ of *habeas corpus* the court was not limited to a consideration of errors on

the face of the warrant of detention but could and would investigate whether the warrant was properly issued.

In the present case, that involved considering the justification for refusing leave to enter. He asserted that an applicant such as the present applicant had a choice of whether to seek leave to apply for judicial review or to seek a writ of *habeas corpus*.

The Court of Appeal considered that the applicant's complaints ought to be determined as early as possible and invited him to apply for leave to move for judicial review direct to the appellate court (see *Chief Adjudication Officer v Another v Foster* (The Times February 28, 1991)) so that that court was seized of both the appeal and an application for leave to seek judicial review.

It was clear law that where the power to detain was dependent on the existence of a particular state of affairs (a precedent fact) and the existence of that fact was challenged by the detainee, a challenge to the detention might be mounted by means of an application for the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus* even if there were alternative procedures available: see *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja* ([1984] AC 74).

Here the right to detain depended on the facts that the applicant was a person who might be required to submit to examination under paragraph 2 of the second Schedule to the Immigration Act 1971 and was detained pending a decision to grant or refuse leave to enter and/or he was a person in respect of whom directions might be given under paragraphs 8 to 14 and he was detained pending such directions and any consequent removal.

However, unlike *Khawaja*, the existence of the precedent facts was not challenged. The applicant's challenge was different, namely that although he was liable to be examined and was examined and although on the conclusion of the examination he was refused leave to enter and directions were given for his removal he should not have been refused leave to enter and no question of his removal should have arisen.

In other words, there was no challenge to jurisdiction, but only to a prior underlying administrative decision. That was a quite different challenge and unless and until it succeeded there were no grounds for impugning the legality of the detention.

His Lordship referred to *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Chahal* (The Times February 7, 1991) 2 All ER 319 where the applicant had sought leave to apply for judicial review and for a writ of *habeas corpus*. The Court of Appeal had held that

the latter remedy was not available.

His Lordship had said that a writ of *habeas corpus* would issue where someone was detained without any authority or the purported authority was beyond the powers of the person authorising the detention and so was unlawful.

The remedy of judicial review was available where the decision sought to be impugned was within the powers of the person taking it, but due to procedural error, a misapplication of the law, a failure to take account of relevant matters, the taking into account of irrelevant matters or the fundamental unreasonableness of the decision, it should never have been taken.

In such a case, his Lordship had said that the decision was lawful until set aside by a court of competent jurisdiction. In the case of detention, if the warrant or the underlying decision to detain were set aside, a writ of *habeas corpus* would have issued.

Turning to the present case, his Lordship had no doubt that, subject to one important qualification, the application which had been made to Mr Justice Brooke was for leave to apply for judicial review and not for the issue of a writ of *habeas corpus*.

The qualification arose out of Mr Jay's refusal to give the undertaking to which his Lordship had referred. That refusal fully justified the issue of the writ if it should have been coupled with an application for leave to apply for judicial review.

The evolution of the new and extended system of judicial review under Order 53 of the Rules of the Supreme Court with its built-in safeguards justified the court in confining the ambit of the writ of *habeas corpus* as his Lordship had described in *Chahal*'s case.

The court should not permit a would-be immigrant to be compulsorily removed from its jurisdiction if he had sought the protection and assistance of the court and the result would be to

render any subsequent order quashing a decision to refuse leave to enter less effective.

That raised the question of how it should be done. His Lordship referred *inter alia* to *R v Secretary of State for Education and Science, Ex parte Devon County Council* ([1991] 1 QB 558) where the Court of Appeal had held that the court had jurisdiction to stay a decision of the secretary of state.

Since any compulsory removal necessarily involved some deprivation of the liberty of the person concerned, a writ of *habeas corpus* was an obvious alternative remedy. The effect of service of such a writ was to make the jailer responsible to the court in place of the authority which ordered the detention, leaving it to the court to determine on the return of the writ whether the detention should or should not continue.

If it were to be objected and shown that the use of a writ of *habeas corpus* *quia timet* was a novelty, so be it. The greatest source of the novelty of writs was quite capable of adapting itself to the circumstances of the times.

An alternative might be to revive and adapt the writ *ne exeat regno* to suit a situation in which, far from wishing to leave the jurisdiction, someone was being compulsorily removed.

Before the appellants, Mr Jay was able to give an undertaking that the applicant would not be removed on or before June 24. In those circumstances the rationale for the issue of the writ of *habeas corpus* disappeared. At the conclusion of argument on June 19 the court had indicated that the appeal would be allowed, and the writ set aside.

His Lordship considered and would dismiss the application for leave to apply for judicial review of the decision refusing leave to enter.

Lord Justice Glidewell delivered a judgment concurring in the result and Lord Justice Taylor concurred with the Master of the Rolls.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Wilson & Co, Tottenham.

Regina v King, Regina v Chinn, Regina v Webley, Regina v Needs, Regina v Cunningham
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Jowitt
[Reasons June 21]

Guidance to courts for determining by three stages whether the wide terms of section 20(2)(3) of the Theft Act 1968 applied to a document was provided by the Court of Appeal when giving reasons for having dismissed appeals against conviction for offences of procuring by deception the execution of a valuable security, a clearing house automated payment system (CHAPS) order, contrary to section 20(2).

The stages were: (i) to identify what the document did; (ii) then to ask whether it fell within any part of the definition of "valuable security" in section 20(3); (iii) if it did, then to ask, bearing in mind the wide terms of section 20(2), whether in respect in which the document was a valuable security, it had been executed.

The appeals were brought by Hugh Allen King, aged 43, a surveyor, Brian Leonard Chinn, aged 49, a mortgage broker, Peter John Webley, aged 42, a solicitor, Frederick William Bernard Needs, aged 51 and Anthony Kenneth John Cunningham, aged 39, against conviction after a 55-day trial at Bristol Crown Court (Mr Justice Ian Kennedy and a jury) of various offences of procuring the execution of a valuable security by deception, contrary to section 20(2).

Chinn, who was charged also with obtaining property by deception and was said to be the ringleader, changed his plea after a ruling by the trial judge.

Also convicted, among others, was William Elton Bird, aged 60, manager of the National Westminster Bank, who did not appeal.

King was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment on each count concurrent, Chinn to 3½ years concurrent and ordered to

pay £25,000 costs. Webley to 2½ years concurrent, Needs to 12 months on one count and Cunningham to six months concurrent. On appeal Needs's sentence was reduced to nine months.

Section 20 provides: "(2) A person who dishonestly, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, by any deception procures the execution of a valuable security shall on conviction . . . be liable to imprisonment . . . and this subsection shall apply in relation to the making, acceptance, endorsement, alteration, cancellation or destruction in whole or in part of a valuable security, and in relation to the signing or sealing of any paper or other material in order that it may be made or converted into, or used or dealt with as, a valuable security, as if that were the execution of a valuable security."

"(3) For the purposes of this section . . . 'valuable security' means any property, or evidence of any property, or anything, transferring, surrendering or releasing any right to, in or over property, or authorising the payment of money or delivery of any property, or evidencing the creation, transfer, surrender or release of any such right, or the payment of money or delivery of any property, or the satisfaction of any obligation."

Mr Ian D. Pringle for King; Mr Nigel Hamilton, QC, for Chinn; Mr B. Nicholas O'Brien for Webley; Mr Roderick Denyer, QC, for Needs; Mr E. Mark Trenchard for Cunningham, all assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr Adrian Palmer for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reasons of the court, said that the appeals against conviction were on a point of law that the trial judge was wrong in ruling that each CHAPS order was a valuable security and had been executed.

It was undisputed that mortgage advances had been obtained from the bank by means of a series of dishonest representations, including false valuations of property, the use of fictitious names and sham intermediaries.

The CHAPS order effected an instantaneous transfer between the payer's bank account and the payee's account in another bank. In one of the counts the National Westminster Bank Fishponds Road branch in Bristol was induced by a fraudulent valuation of £98,000 to advance £81,000 to Cunningham, who was said to require the money towards the purchase of six self-contained apartments at an address in Bristol.

He was said to be a client of Webley's firm, who had asked for the £81,000 advanced by the bank to Cunningham to be remitted to them first thing on July 19, 1985. On July 18 a CHAPS order was made out by

the bank's employees. It was on two sides of an A4 sheet of paper. The first side and a half contained the paying customer's instructions, signed by or on behalf of the customer.

The second part, headed "For bank use only", read: "Payment keyed in by" with an indecipherable signature; "Outward payment checked by" with an indecipherable signature; and "Branch signatures" with an indecipherable signature.

Attached to that document, and part of the same exhibit was what appeared to be a computer printout headed by the paying bank sorting code number and reading "Payment released," followed by the outward payment reference number from the CHAPS form followed by the time, followed by the words "Payment accepted".

Mr Hamilton's arguments, adopted by all the appellants, was that the CHAPS order did not come within the definition of "valuable security", despite the wide terms of section 20(3).

The fact that the definition might serve to include some documents which without it might not have been thought to be valuable securities did not weaken its effect.

The CHAPS order was certainly a document. Its effect was to direct the paying bank to debit the paying customer's account with £X, plus any charges, and to transfer the £X to the credit of the payee's account at another bank and to do so by means of an electronic device which would carry out the necessary operations as soon as the staff of the paying bank keyed the information contained in the document into the machine and put the machine into operation.

Mr Palmer suggested that the CHAPS order, certainly when completed, fell within a number of the categories of valuable securities set out in section 20(3).

It created or transferred a right to property; it evidenced the payment of money; it evidenced the creation or transfer of a right to property; it evidenced the payment of money; it evidenced the delivery of property and the satisfaction of an obligation.

Arguments for the appellants ignored the reality of what happened when a CHAPS order was processed. A credit of £X over which the paying customer had a right before the order was processed, whether or not conditions attached to the exercise of that right, was now available, not to him but to the payee.

To argue that the transfer was the result simply of the actions of the bank officials was analogous to arguing that a cheque, unquestionably a valuable security, was not efficacious to transfer property because there had to be bank activity before a credit appeared in the payee's account.

In their Lordships' judgment, a CHAPS order, once processed, and bearing the bank officials' signatures which signified that it had been processed, was a document which transferred a right over property, that is, the bank credit, being a chose in action. It also created the right over the chose.

Once the necessary signatures had been appended to show that the transfer had been effected, the document did both evidence the creation and the transfer of a right over property. It also evidenced the satisfaction of an obligation, namely, the obligation of the bank to act on the instructions of its paying customer to effect the transfer.

The document before their Lordships did come within the definition of a valuable security. The following ingredients of the offence under section 20(2) were satisfied: (i) dishonesty, (ii) with a view to gain for himself or another; (iii) deception and (iv) the valuable security.

That left the only other question to be answered: Had the prosecution proved that the dishonest deceptions "procured the execution" of the CHAPS order?

In the light of *R v Varnazakara* ([1987] 1 WLR 265), *R v Beck* ([1985] 1 WLR 122) and *R v Kassim* ([1988] Crim LR 372) "execution" now bore the broad meaning established by that line of authority.

It accordingly seemed to their Lordships that there plainly was an "execution" of the CHAPS order in the present case when the bank officials carried out their instructions by keying the transfer into the computer and then completing the form.

Even if that was wrong, the signing of the CHAPS order by the bank officials in order, and certainly with the consequence, that it might be used or dealt with as evidence and accordingly might be a valuable security, meant that under the terms of section 20(2) there was what amounted to the equivalent of "execution".

The judge was correct in his ruling on the submissions which had been made to him. Those reasons the appeals against conviction were dismissed.

Their Lordships added by way of guidance to courts which had to consider the application of section 20(2) and (3) to a document that there were three stages to the process.

The first was to identify what the document did. The second, in the light of that, was to ask whether the document fell within any part of the definition of valuable security as provided by section 20(3). If it did, then the third stage was to ask, bearing in mind the wide terms of section 20(2), whether, in the respect in which the document was a valuable security, it had been executed.

Solicitors: CPS, Bristol.

Binding nature of decree absolute

Callaghan v Hanson Fox and Another

A decree absolute of divorce granted by a court of competent jurisdiction following the correct procedural requirements was unimpeachable. A decree absolute affected status and was binding on both the parties and on the world.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, so stated on June 19 in dismissing an action by Mr Robert Callaghan who sought to set aside a decree absolute of divorce made on May 12, 1977 following an undefended petition filed by his former wife, now deceased, on

the ground that the marriage had irretrievably broken down, the parties having lived apart for more than two years. The husband had consented to the decree being granted.

THE PRESIDENT said that the plaintiff pleaded that he and his wife had never ceased to live together and were still living together at the time of her death in January 1986. He pleaded that the fact in the petition was false and the decree had been obtained by fraud. The plaintiff had not appealed or sought leave to appeal in the divorce suit.

In *Bater v Bater* ([1906] P 209)

the Court of Appeal had emphasised the conclusive binding status of a decree absolute. In that case it had been pleaded that a decree absolute affected status and was equivalent to a judgment *in rem*.

It was in the public interest that a decree absolute should be unimpeachable where there was no question as to the jurisdiction of the court and there had been no procedural irregularity.

It was not open to the plaintiff to challenge the validity of the decree. The proceedings were misconceived and an abuse of the process of the court.

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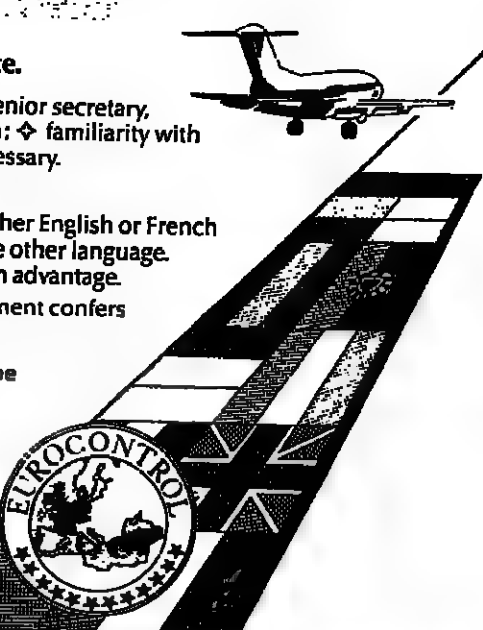
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Why it's all quiet on the waterfront

Offices built
beside rivers and
canals keeps staff
happy, reports
Christopher Warman

More commercial properties are being built with a view of water, which can enhance an office environment and perhaps have a calming effect on the workforce.

Such developments are expected in the docklands areas of London, Liverpool, Manchester, Cardiff and Bristol, but Birmingham is a less likely place to lead the waterside revival. The largest of the new waterside developments transforming the city centre's extensive canal network is Waterlinks, a 330-acre business village project in the Birmingham Heartlands regeneration area.

Peter Burford, Waterlinks' chief executive, was one of the first developers to capitalise on a waterfront location when he built The Wharf offices overlooking Gas Street Basin in the mid Eighties. He now sees the business landscape changing dramatically.

He says: "At the turn of the century most factories were turning their backs to the canal. A hundred years later, business districts will overlook water."

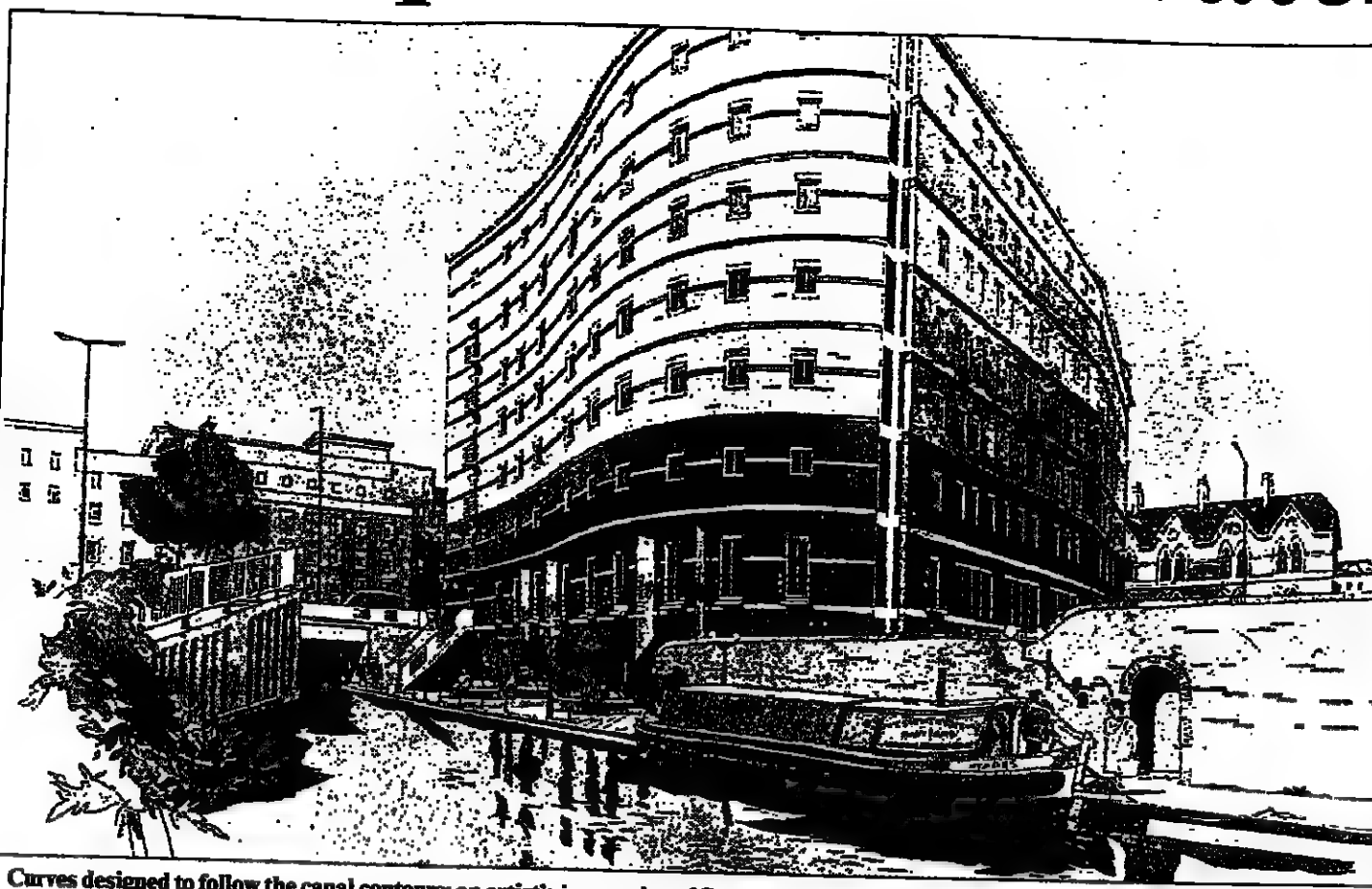
The Waterlinks scheme, including up to a million sq ft of business accommodation, is being under-

taken by a consortium of four construction companies - Bryant, Douglas, Tarmac and Wimpey - and will occupy more than a mile of frontage to the Birmingham and Fazeley canal. Aston Cross, the initial 160,000 sq ft canalside scheme, is already half-built, and

much of it is occupied or under offer. Gas Street Basin and the area around the recently opened International Convention Centre is the focus for much of the city's waterside plans. Rosehaugh is proposing a £250 million leisure and office complex on 26 acres at

Brindley Place alongside the canal, opposite the centre, and a former steel stockholding building at Mill Wharf has been redeveloped as more than 20,000 sq ft of offices. Stewart Sim, British Waterways' regional manager, is heartened by the attention that developers and

the city authority are now paying to Birmingham's long neglected canal system. As part of the Inner City Partnership, British Waterways is spearheading vast improvements and developments on the city's canals through a comprehensive programme that is



Curves designed to follow the canal contours: an artist's impression of Summer Court, a striking office building planned for Birmingham

transforming the network into a business and tourist attraction.

One of the most striking new buildings will be Summer Court, 100,000 sq ft of offices on a canalside site next to St Chad's Cathedral. The scheme, by Rowanmoor (Birmingham), will accommodate 650 people. The building has a curved side wall to follow the contours of the Birmingham and Fazeley canal, and a piazza will link it with the International Convention Centre via a towpath walk.

The Great Bridgewater Street development in Manchester, undertaken by Beazer and Manchester city council, includes 250,000 sq ft in two buildings and a further 118,000 sq ft in the refurbished Free Trade Hall, and shops, housing and leisure facilities around a newly created canal basin.

Andrew Shaw, of Jones Lang Wootton, the joint agents with Lambert Smith Hampton, says: "The reopening of the canal will enhance the topography of the site, creating a waterside environment full of life, colour and activity."

On the river at Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, the Offer Group has completed the main phase of Burgoine Quay, near the town centre. The first phase has been pre-let. The main phase, 9,000 sq ft, overlooks the Thames and has its own mooring. A further 9,000 sq ft, in buildings of about 3,000 sq ft, are soon to be completed. Weatherall Green & Smith and Cotton Commercial Kingston are asking a rental of £25 a sq ft.

IN THE MARKET

Lynton has completed its office development, the Lansdowne Building, the first of a new generation of high-specification offices to be built in the heart of Croydon, Surrey. The 110,000 sq ft granite-facade building, on nine floors, designed by Seilert, is within the town's central business core. The letting agent, Knight Frank & Rutley, is seeking tenants for the building as a whole at a rent of £3.25 million a year, equating to £29.35 a sq ft. The agent says that no modern buildings of a similar size will be available in Croydon for at least a year.

An £18 million scheme for the refurbishment and redevelopment of Caxton Hall in Westminster, formerly London's main register office for the weddings of the famous, has been granted planning permission by Westminster council. The scheme, by Stakis Land & Estates, designed by the Fletcher Joseph partnership of architects, involves the retention of the whole of the listed ornate front on Caxton Street and redevelopment of the disused and redundant buildings on the site to provide a new 42,300 sq ft headquarters office building. The Victorian red-brick register office building, next to Stakis's St Ermin's hotel, is to be converted to eight residential apartments.

Woodlands is an office development of 22,000 sq ft by Dovemill Properties, built on the site of a former laundry in the centre of Newbury, Berkshire. Woodlands was designed by Lyon, Sleeman and Hoare, a firm of local architects, and is a three-storey building in brick, approached through a two-storey gatehouse. This is Dovemill's second scheme in Newbury. The agents are Dreweatt-Neate, of Newbury, and the London-based Mellersh & Harding.

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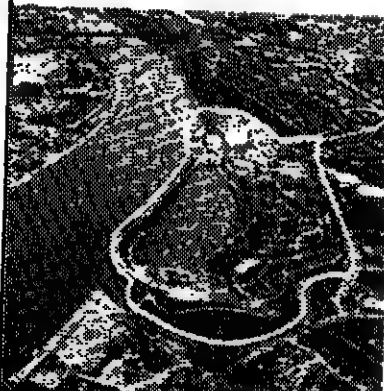
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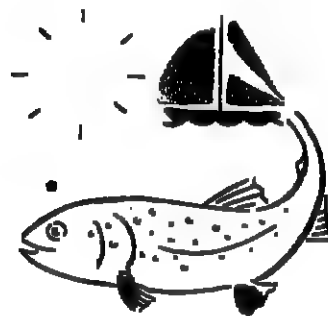
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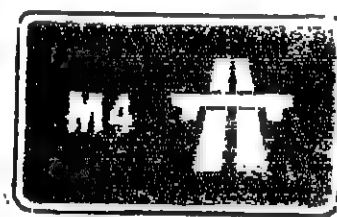
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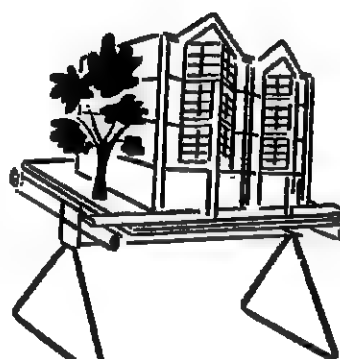
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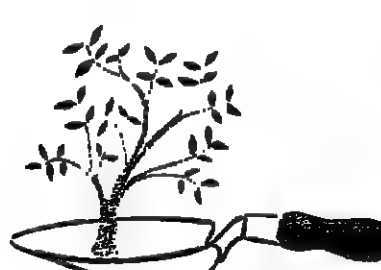
Road and rail links are excellent. The M4 motorway and 21 train services a day connect Cardiff to London in just 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 hours. Soon Cardiff Bay will be served by a high capacity dual carriageway looping through the Bay. The result is Cardiff Bay will be just around the corner from the M4.



To set and achieve high architectural standards, the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation has consulted with the best international planning consultants.



Cardiff is already a flourishing capital, the centre of Welsh industry, commerce, administration and recreation. It is a major British tourist centre with many fine hotels and conference facilities. The Cardiff Bay Development Corporation seeks to enhance the city's international reputation by encouraging the development of both a Science Centre and an Opera House.



The Cardiff Bay Development Corporation is reserving as much space as possible for public parks, gardens and greens. Over £115 million has been allocated for environmental improvements and landscaping.



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VICTOR ORDANAN SURVEY M

The wider market is put on the map

The Ordnance Survey is now undergoing the biggest changes in 200 years, writes John Young



The man who has overseen perhaps the greatest changes in the history of the Ordnance Survey, as it has come to terms with the computer age and a likely future as an independent enterprise financed by its own commercial efforts, is to retire this year.

Peter McMaster, who has been the director general for seven years, is a polymath in the best tradition. He was educated at Kelvinside Academy, Glasgow, and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers and served in the Middle and Far East before retiring with the rank of major. He is a qualified surveyor, and was also called to the Bar in 1969.

In the early days, he points out, the OS had only one customer, the military. Over the years, however, the use of maps has extended to serve a range of interests, from de-



Peter McMaster: presiding in an age of revolution

fence to civil administration, from building to environmental conservation. The public, of course, use the maps for travel and recreation.

Mr McMaster says: "Since our inception in 1791 there have been constant changes in the techniques of map-making and in the style of our maps, which have been continuously adapted to meet our customers' changing needs. I am

delighted that the OS has got itself ahead of everyone else in the development of computer-based mapping. Our technology has not been matched anywhere else."

The OS can now offer potentially lucrative consultancy services to Europe, Asia and the developing world. Mr McMaster sees the future production of maps as largely incidental to the supply

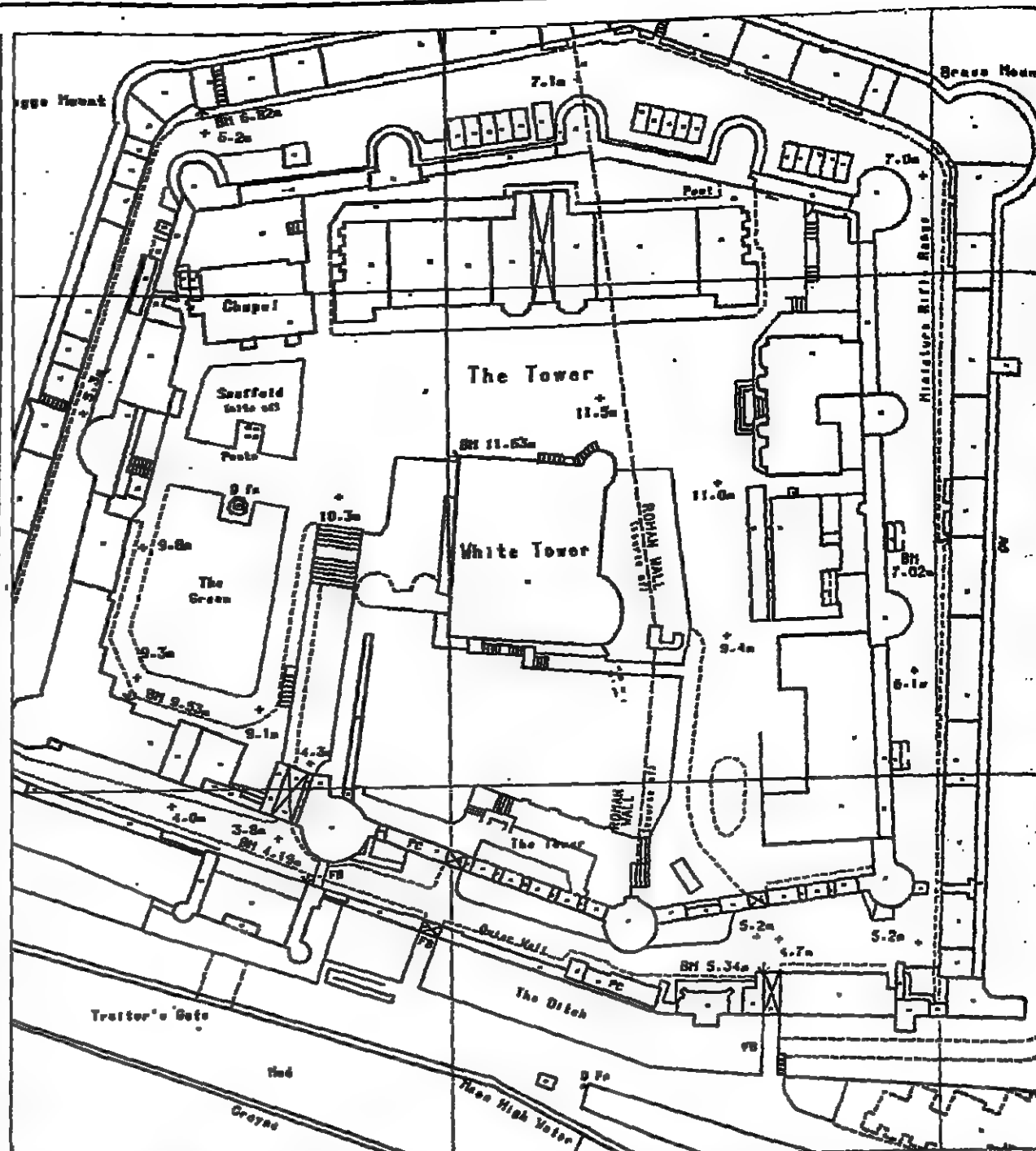
of geographical information to order. "We will be able to help people through our computer services to make decisions that at present can be reached only through detailed analysis of maps," he says.

Satellites will play an increasing role, he suggests. Their present use in marine navigation, replacing sextants and the stars, will be extended to journeys by land. Eventually, individuals will be able to carry a pocket device to tell them exactly where they are.

He is not sure whether the OS should be fully privatised. Maps have always been under-priced, he points out. In the past, governments have seen mapping as a prerequisite for many social and economic reforms, and therefore treated the expense of mapping as a proper cost of administration.

Now that the government is cutting spending and wants users to pay for services, there is a more realistic pricing policy for mapping. "The OS used to recover 20 per cent of its costs from the sale of maps," he points out. "Since we have been urged to recover a larger share by taking a more active commercial approach, the proportion has risen to about 70 per cent, which is higher than in any other country in Europe."

He thinks that within a few years the OS will be fully self-financing. "This will enable the OS to maintain a full service to its customers without tipping the scales too heavily towards purely commercial activities, which could undermine the comprehensive mapping of the country. That will always be our primary task."



Towering achievement: above, a modern, digitalised map of the Tower of London on the scale of 1:1250. Below left, draughtsman drawing a map using a computer and, right, the start of the process as a surveyor measures distances



Service goes into business

Less money from government funds has forced the OS to diversify

THE Ordnance Survey was told in 1983 by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary at the time, that it could no longer expect the amount of government money it had received in the past and that it would have to generate much more of its income from marketing its expertise.

Mr Heseltine's directive was a not so gentle and distinctly Thatcherite suggestion that, although the OS's expertise and achievements were internationally acknowledged and largely unchallenged, it lacked the entrepreneurial skills to exploit them.

Given its historic status as an appendage of the military

establishment, that was hardly surprising. The public service in Britain had always distanced itself from commerce. OS maps were available in shops and bookstalls everywhere. They were durable and reliable, and superbly executed examples of the cartographer's art.

However, they were serious maps for serious map users. If people wanted something flashier, there were plenty of commercial alternatives, albeit largely plagiarised from

the OS's publications. Adapting to the idea of joint ventures with the private sector was difficult at first but has steadily improved. Nearly 100 new titles have been published, ranging from bird-watching guides to new motoring atlases. The most successful are probably the best-selling touring atlases published in conjunction with Hamlyn and Michelin, and a series of walking guides co-produced with Jarrold, of Norwich.

The OS can also offer its own specialised services to engineers, builders, developers and local authorities. These include detailed aerial photographs, either commissioned to order or supplied from archives.

In June last year the OS was added to the list of civil service branches converted into semi-autonomous executive agencies. Since then it has been included in a group that includes the Stationery and Passport offices, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre and the Meteorological Office, which the prime minister's policy unit considers ripe for full privatisation.

Drawing a global strategy

World markets offer the chance for OS to build on a history of overseas work

ONE of the enduring images of Empire is that of the team of surveyors, or perhaps a single surveyor working on his own with helmet, sun-visor, theodolite and drawing board, mapping the far-flung reaches of the colonies.

A celebrated early exercise by the Ordnance Survey was the delineation of the boundary between the United States and Canada, which is said to have allowed the persecuted Sioux Indians to flee north to escape their pursuers.

The line along the 49th parallel was marked, not as today by customs and immigration posts, but by a series of earth mounds, extending from the crest of the

Rockies to the Lake of the Woods on the border of Ontario and Minnesota.

But for the intervention of two world wars, which disrupted long-term plans, much more would have been achieved. Nevertheless, under the direction of the Royal Engineers and later, the Directorate of Colonial Surveys, post-war mapping of the colonies and protectorates was enthusiastically pursued, employing RAF and commercial aircraft to carry out aerial surveys.

The organisation was later renamed the Directorate of Overseas Services and was charged with mapping developing countries, as part of Britain's overseas aid programme. However, in 1984 the directorate's offices in Tolworth, Surrey, were closed down and it was merged with the OS.

By that time the directorate had mapped nearly three million square miles, mainly in Africa and the Caribbean. Its library contained some notable examples of the cartographer's art and in 1989, with the agreement and cooperation of the governments concerned, the OS launched a new series called Worldmaps, which included a number of spectacular and exotic locations such as Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and Barbados.

In the short term the scope for further expansion appears limited. The developed countries have their own resources, and the Third World is too poor to pay.

In the longer term, however, new needs are likely to arise. Cartographers face the challenge of changes brought about by Earth's climate and the demographic effects of the population explosion.

Sighting on new horizons

Computers and the Ordnance Survey were not terms that went naturally together. The OS was, by its own admission, a conservative institution, which considered map-making an end in itself and viewed customers — indeed, the very concept of marketing — with suspicion.

The OS had, however, been discussing the idea of using new technology for some time, and in 1971 it began the enormous task of "digitalising" its stock of more than 250,000 maps, transferring to computer the accumulated work of generations of surveyors and draughtsmen.

Computerisation was given a boost, however, by a review committee under Sir David Serpell, which was examining the future of the OS and the extent to which it should continue to receive government funding. Walter Smith, its first civilian director general, told the committee that the production of digital data was largely an act of faith.

His instincts proved correct. The first customers for the new digital maps included the Post Office, and the gas, water and electricity companies, which were quick to appreciate the value of a standard map base on to which, using their own computers, they could project their operations.

Among the many advantages of the new digitalised maps, produced in cooperation with Laser-Scan, of Cambridge, is that they effectively end the long-standing controversy about the choice of scales. Customers can now get a print-out of the area in which they are interested to whatever scale required and containing only the details they need.

Perhaps hill walkers in the

OS started using computer technology 20 years ago, and now produces tailor-made, individual, digitalised maps

Scottish Highlands will one day turn, not to a map to determine their whereabouts, but to a pocket VDU screen. However, that day may be 50 or even 100 years away. When those rambles return to their cars they may be able to plot their exact whereabouts at all times by using an inbuilt navigation system, which will indicate the best routes to follow and warn of any delays and hazards.

As an intermediate step, NextBase Ltd, of Staines, Surrey, has introduced Autoroute Plus, which won a British Design Award earlier this year. Using a computer screen, customers type in the starting point and destination,

and information about any stops they need to make, and within seconds have a colour map, based on the Ordnance Survey 1:625,000, showing the shortest and fastest route.

Motorists will also be informed of any likely hold-ups to examine any particular section at a scale of up to two inches to the mile. By feeding in the estimated driving speeds, they can obtain an estimate of the time the journey should take.

For motorists still content to stick with conventional maps, digitalisation has allowed the production of new

atlases, which are claimed to be much easier to read than anything previously available. They include the new Motoring Atlas of Great Britain, published in conjunction with Hamlyn, and a series of new county maps, a joint venture with George Philip, on a scale of three-and-a-half inches to the mile, which show not only all roads, streets and lanes with their names clearly marked, but parks, woods, farms and footpaths, and a number of public buildings such as hospitals and fire and police stations.

The maps are based on a continuously updated digital system known as Oscar, which is also widely used by public utilities for planning new services and for maintenance, and by engineers, surveyors and planners. The system offers the OS almost unlimited scope for extending its range of commercial services.

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Whose countryside would you rather see? Thomas Hardy's? Or John McAdam's?

Can you imagine curling up with a novel entitled 'Tess of the M4'?

Or how about 'Far from the Madding Service Station'?

Perhaps 'The Mayor of Motorbridge' would have you digging into your wallet next time you're in the bookshop in eager anticipation of a thundering good read? No? We thought not.

Yet sadly, these titles are probably an accurate reflection of the way most of us experience the landscapes that Nature so generously gave our great writers, composers and painters for inspiration.

Why is this? Why do more and more people seem content to limit their enjoyment of our wondrously beautiful countryside to a sort of high-speed slide show, conveniently framed by a car window?

A show where no sounds are allowed. They might, after all, clash with the pop music coming from the hi-tech dash board.

A show devoid of smells. Own up. Don't your own children turn up their noses at the unusual scents and pungent aromas which characterise the countryside?

Yet this sorry state of affairs needn't exist. The glorious, undulating landscape described in Thomas Hardy's books is there still. And it is waiting for you to discover it in the very same way he did.

Not at 70 miles per hour. Not cushioned in velour. Not protected from the sounds of the first cuckoo and the smell of newly-mown hay by shatterproof glass.

But by leisurely strolling or cycling along the lanes and by-ways of the Dorset countryside he loved.

The only difference between you and Thomas Hardy is that while he knew the area well, you might have to call on the services of an experienced and trusted guide. *Ordnance Survey.*

The subject of our Touring Map and Guide number 15, for example, is *Wessex*, the Anglo-Saxon kingdom used as a backcloth to Hardy's lyrical stories of rural intrigue.

Like all Ordnance Survey maps, this particular guide is both friend and tutor.

Do you need a telephone? A picnic spot? A camp site? Allow us to give you their precise location.

Are you interested in old battlesites? Historic houses? Or what about those caves you've heard tell are in the area?

Once again, an Ordnance Survey map can show you the way. [We will even furnish you with the date that battle took place].

And though our maps are invaluable in assisting you in getting from the proverbial A

to B, they can also greatly enrich the journey.

On the reverse side of most Ordnance Survey Touring Maps is a heading: Where to go and what to see.

This masterpiece of English understatement conceals deep and expert knowledge of

the area, its history, geography, crafts, even local curiosities and follies.

Map 15, for instance, will direct you to the smallest pub in Britain. Or to a monument shaped as a pyramid in honour of a horse that saved its owner's life.

It reveals the whereabouts of the local vineyard that is open to the public. Pin-points the lesser-known Elizabethan manor which has interesting additions by John Nash and gardens landscaped by Capability Brown.

It will also take you on a guided tour of Thomas Hardy's old haunts. The church where Tess was married. The cottage where he wrote *Far from the Madding Crowd*. The graveyard which, rather gruesomely, contains the author's heart. [His ashes are interred at *Westminster Abbey*].

You will also learn which particular roads Hardy liked to travel and why.

But how, you may be wondering, does Ordnance Survey unearth these little nuggets of information? What drives us to leave no stone, cobble or pebble unturned to bring you these insights into our countryside and its famous inhabitants?

It's quite simple. This year is our two hundredth anniversary.

We drew our first map at the end of the eighteenth century when Britain was faced with invasion by Napoleon. The British Army desperately needed accurate maps of the South Coast and this was duly carried out by the Board of Ordnance.

And while Napoleon failed to show up, the age of the map certainly arrived.

So you see, map-making has been in our blood for a very long time.

To the extent that Ordnance Survey originated practically all the maps of Britain that are around today.

[Indeed most of the maps with other brand names on were originally drawn by us. But don't tell them we told you].

Of course, nowadays our maps are used less for the defence of the realm and more by

those people who wish to appreciate it.

If you like going for regular jaunts into the countryside, you might like to take one of our Landranger maps with you next time you head off.

Usually more detailed than our Touring Maps, a Landranger will show you what kind of trees populate your local forests or woodlands, point out particular rock formations in the region and, perhaps most important of all when you're walking in the countryside, where to find a public convenience.

If Landranger maps are for people who like a little information on their rambles, our Pathfinder Series is for those who like a little rambling with their information.

Thomas Hardy enthusiasts following our Pathfinder 1318, for instance, will be able to amble around the outskirts of his beloved Dorchester certain in the knowledge that they are walking on the remains of an old Roman road, that ahead lies ground covered in bracken and that half a mile in front of them there's a natural spring still bubbling away.

Coming into the main part of town, the same narrow streets Hardy meandered along are drawn up in such detail that even houses and their boundaries are clearly marked.

Do we really need to provide you with this degree of accuracy? We think so.

Every day the face of our towns, villages and countryside changes. Sometimes it is imperceptible. At other times, when property boundaries are moved or roads are added, the changes actually reshape our country.

The better your knowledge of these changes, the greater your appreciation will be of what the British countryside is in its many guises has to offer.

Then, who knows? Perhaps one day, with the guidance of Ordnance Survey, you may get to know Wessex almost as well as Thomas Hardy did.

Even see it through his eyes. Feel what he felt when he wrote *'Wessex Heights'*.

'There are some heights in Wessex, shaped as if by kindly hand

For thinking, dreaming, dying on, and at crises when I stand,

Say, on Ingpen Beacon eastward, or on Wylls-Neck westwardly,

I seem where I was before my birth, and after death may be.'

Now, isn't that the kind of countryside you want to see?

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The most detailed maps in the land.

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Champion survives scare before clinching an historic hundredth victory on her beloved centre court

Navratilova has reprieve as Reinach falters

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

MARTINA Navratilova returned to her beloved centre court at Wimbledon yesterday to make another piece of history and left it thankful for the small mercy of victory. The defending champion beat Elena Reinach, of South Africa, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 to become the first player to win 100 singles matches at the championships, but as the statuesque South African led 4-3, 30-0 on her own serve in the final set, the books were being scanned for a rather less flattering record.

Never before had the defending champion been knocked out in the first round. Only once before, in 1974, had Navratilova been beaten in the first round at Wimbledon. The victor then was Mima Jausovec, a diminutive Yugoslav clay-courtier, and Navratilova was aged 17, playing her second Wimbledon and not quite as famous.

The thought of defeat crossed Navratilova's mind at roughly the same moment the idea of victory entered Reinach's and the result was a predictable collapse of the South African, who had already been playing a game well beyond expectations.

From 30-0 down, Navratilova won 12 of the next 13 points to seal a victory that even she admitted was a little fortunate. At 30-30, a backhand clipped the top of the net and dropped apologetically over, leaving Reinach stranded on the baseline. "I was debating whether to serve or volley or serve and stay back," said Reinach. "I chose wrong. But luck goes both ways. She just happened to enjoy hers at a really important point."



Never one to look twice at a gift from above, Navratilova belatedly must have felt it was her day after all. "It was like Sisyphus — you know, the guy who pushed the rocks up the mountain. It was an uphill struggle the whole time, but you just have to keep pushing." From one legend to another, as it were.

Nerves undoubtedly played a part in Navratilova's surprising fallibility, just as they did in Reinach's final fall. From the first game, when she missed two volleys she would normally convert in her sleep, the champion was tetchy and ill-at-ease. The umpire was berated for not calling a halt when a slight drizzle began, even the ballboys were chastised for making a 34-year-old bend too much.

"I was all over the place emotionally," Navratilova said. "I thought that I was really going to enjoy this, then before I knew it, I'm a set down and in a battle. I let the occasion take over the fact that I had to play a match. That won't happen again."

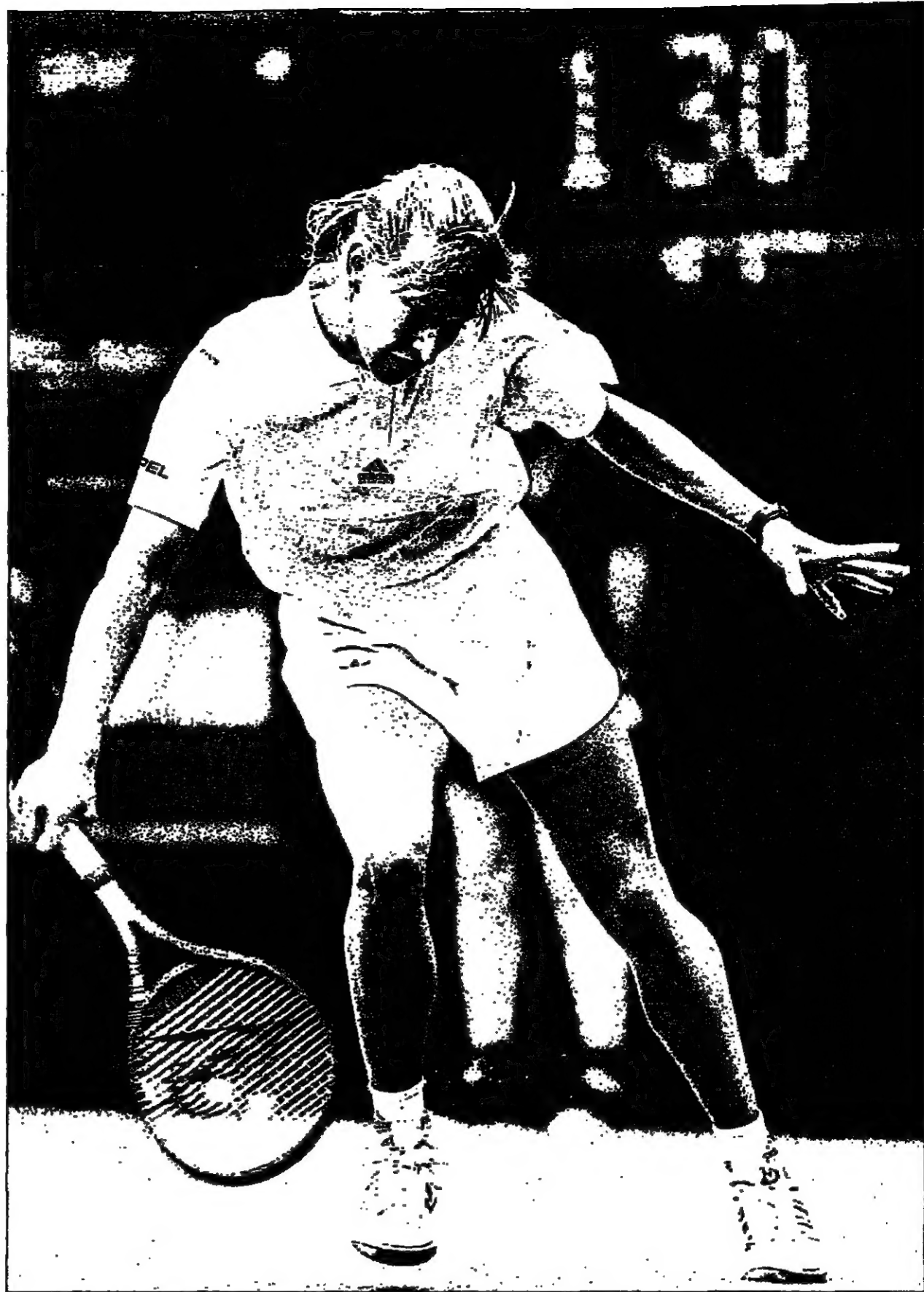
But Navratilova had picked the wrong scapegoats. The real culprit was Reinach, who far from being nervous at playing her first match on centre court, responded by raising her game to unparalleled heights.

She treated Navratilova's famed serve with disdain, leaving the champion looking at her shoelaces or throwing her head back in despair. Neither did much good. Reinach took the first set, the first Navratilova had lost since 1989, and if she had converted one of four break points in the opening game of the second set or taken advantage of three breaks of service in the third, the conclusion just might have been different. Only at the death did her nerve fail.

"I knew it would be her hundredth singles victory," Reinach said. "But it didn't occur to me that I could really beat her. I thought 'Here I am on centre court, this is the first time and I am giving her a run for her money'. I enjoyed it." To use a cricket analogy, Navratilova's century was reached with a desperate quick single, not a cover-driven four.

The centre court crowd had to be grateful too. Grey clouds loomed for most of the day and the decision to leave the starting time on the centre court and court one until early afternoon seemed supremely optimistic. By the time the defending women's champion had stepped onto centre court, the first winner of the day, Emanuele Zardo, was back in the locker-room along with the first loser, Nina Miyagi.

Aranxa Sánchez Vicario followed, the first seed through to the second round, while Barbara Griffiths became the first British player to fall, though there were good wins for Jo Durie and Amanda Grunfield. The rain finally came in mid-afternoon, causing play to be halted for about an hour on centre court where Stefan Edberg was vainly trying to get grips with Marc Rosset in a match which was scheduled to begin on Monday, finally began yesterday and will very probably continue into today.



Angle poised: Steffi Graf leans into a backhand during her 6-2, 6-2 win over Sabine Appelmans, of Belgium

Sober visions of high old times

PERHAPS tennis is the most emotional of all games. Certainly it is a game that reserves its highest rewards for the player who can find a transforming level of inspiration at the direst moments of the game can offer. If all points were worth the same, this would not be the case, but the scoring structure of tennis is geared to make some points more important than others, and others still the fulcrum on which a match, or even a career, will turn.

"I won it on emotion," Martina Navratilova said of her troubled three-setter yesterday. Boris Becker has the ability to produce his best shots when the going is at its toughest. John McEnroe, at his never-to-be-forgotten peak, was another: surely no one has ever played the game as gorgeously as McEnroe on a match-turning point.

SIMON BARNES

McEnroe made his entrance to this year's tournament under a pouring sky on court two: the one the headline writers call The Graveyard of Champions. But it was his poor opponent, Jaime Oncins, a Brazilian aged 21, who got buried, as McEnroe stroled home 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

McEnroe looked rather stiff and uncoordinated, but then he always does. There is something rather pedantic about many of his movements, especially as he prepares to serve or to receive service. He looks as if he were trying to do exactly what his coach told him — odd that the spontaneous player most of us have seen should give that impression.

We had a parade of some of the traditional McEnroe mannerisms yesterday, including his favourite, the right-and-a-left stiff-armed face-wipe. But the most famous of all McEnroeisms was not visible. There was no temper, there was scarcely a shred of emotion. There was scarcely any inspiration either.

It was not necessary against an overawed opponent who had resigned himself to being a sacrificial lamb — sacrificial giraffe is more accurate, for he is a lanky lad. It was Oncins who got emotional, going up for a good old whinge at the umpire, head cocked upward in that martyred, imploring fashion his opponent knows so well. What's Portuguese for "pits of the world"?

McEnroe was asked afterwards, slightly naughtily, if he found these little outbursts from Oncins at all distracting. He said no. No professional would find his opponents' protests off-putting. "The game's changed now, and it is usually the person who does it that it affects the most," he said.

"It's so happened that there was a time when this did not affect me," he said. Indeed, there were times when his protests were nothing less than inspiring. A glorious wave of self-righteousness would lift him to frenzied victories. For all that, he produced his greatest and most emotional tennis in response to the most inspired tennis from his greatest opponents.

"It's pretty important for me to keep calm on every point," he said. Even the official Player Guide in the press kit enjoys this anomaly of the ageing enfant terrible, quoting McEnroe as saying of his youthful tantrums: "It just doesn't give me the same thrill as it did when I was a kid." Perhaps even McEnroe himself sees the joke.

One wonders why he still plays: first-round loser a year ago, hardly a betting proposition this. Naturally, I have a theory. Every youth in the world not only believes he is immortal, he also believes he can be a world champion at anything he turns to. Some actually achieve it, like McEnroe, like Becker.

But it is only in maturity that they realise that what they have done is difficult: in fact, almost impossible. It is only by failing in later life that those wild, easy achievements of youth acquire meaning. By playing now — by playing calmly, without emotion, and losing — McEnroe can at last come to terms with the excesses and achievements of his youth.

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Graf puts French sorrows behind

By ANDREW LONGMORE

STEFFI Graf put the thought of her defeat at the French Open behind her yesterday as she beat Sabine Appelmans, of Belgium, 6-2, 6-2, to reach the second round.

Graf, like Navratilova on the centre court, was troubled by the slippery conditions as well as the wind, which at least kept the rain away for most of the afternoon. "I was really scared because I have fallen down once on a grass court and I had a bad injury about six years ago when I broke a finger and the tendon. I was very close to not being able to play again," Graf said.

Graf's exit from the French, beaten 6-0, 6-2 by Arantxa Sánchez Vicario amid accusations that her father Peter Graf had scuffled with a tennis "groupie" had revived memories of last year's Wimbledon which ended in defeat in the

semi-final by Zina Garrison. But Graf has been practising hard for the past two weeks and seems determined to make up for recent disappointments by winning her third title. The only cloud on the horizon is Sánchez Vicario, who she could meet again in the semi-final.

"I'm not looking for who it is better to have in my draw or not. I just want to win this tournament, no matter what. If I play Arantxa again, I shall be more than happy, because I have prepared the best I possibly can," Graf said.

Graf now meets Mrs T. A. Harper, otherwise known as Peanut Louie, who ended a run of three consecutive first-round defeats with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Claudia Porwik.

Of 131 matches scheduled for the first two days, only 28 were completed.

Christopher Wilkinson put up a better fight against Thierry Champion, of France, before losing 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. Wilkinson squandered his chance for a 4-2 lead in the first set against the laid-back Frenchman, and despite taking the third set never looked likely to make the match.

Against Elena Pampoulova, Belinda Borneo appeared to be heading for another British victory, steaming through the first set 6-2 and getting within a point for a 5-1 lead in the third. But her confidence evaporated as she contrived to lose the next four games and stumble out of the championships 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Play on centre court and court one today will start at 1pm. Play on outside courts will commence at 11am.

Results, page 39

Senna not happy with Silverstone

AYRTON SENNA, the world champion, yesterday praised safety improvements at the revised Silverstone circuit, but said he was dissatisfied with the track's surface. "There are many places where the bumps are really too uncomfortable," he said during testing for the British Grand Prix on July 14. "There are still some very fast places and at some I think the speeds may still be a bit too high. But generally the circuit is a lot safer than it used to be. It is a big improvement on the safety side generally, except for the asphalt."

Silverstone has spent £1.7 million on changes since last

year, including the alteration of at least four corners.

"I think it would have been so much better if it did not have any bumps," Senna said. "This is quite possible, as we saw at the new circuit at Magny-Cours [in France] where the surface is quite fantastic."

Gerhard Berger, Senna's team-mate, liked the new layout. It had challenging high-speed corners and retained many of the characteristics of the old circuit, once the fastest in Grand Prix racing. He did not like the smooth new circuits like Magny-Cours because they lacked character and challenge.

Donnelly to return

MARTIN Donnelly, still recovering from the multiple injuries he sustained when he crashed at Jerez last September, hopes to return to grand prix racing next year. Donnelly, from Northern Ireland, aims to test a Formula One car in September.

Donnelly, who was unconscious for more than a month after the crash, said:

"My only remaining problems are at the bottom of my left leg and I know it is going to take a long time. I am in no rush and obviously I do not want to let myself or my team down." He suffered multiple injuries when his Lotus, travelling at 160mph, failed to take a corner and went straight into steel barriers during qualifying for the Spanish grand prix.

Botham's fitness in doubt

IAN Botham will have a late fitness test before Worcestershire's NatWest Trophy first round match with Bedfordshire at Bedford today, a game in which he must play to have any chance of returning to the England team for the third Test at Trent Bridge.

Botham has been having intensive treatment on the hamstring injury suffered in the Texaco Trophy match against West Indies at Edgbaston five weeks ago. Since then he has helped Worcestershire win their Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final against Essex, winning the gold award for bowling figures of three for 11.

"We won't do what we did against Essex by playing him when he is less than 100 per cent fit," Mike Jones, chairman of the Worcestershire cricket committee, said yesterday. "We all know how much he wants to play for England, but it would be silly for Ian to rush back and risk aggravating the problem."

NatWest preview, page 38

Weather is ruining British title hopes

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Elliott cracked a joke yesterday about the British weather, but behind his laughter was a serious message. "I think someone has been up there and stuck a cork in the ozone layer," he said.

If this miserable weather continues, maybe not many British athletes will be popping corks from champagne bottles this season.

Elliott, the Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion, was among several athletes and leading coaches voicing their worry over the effect the weather is having on training. Ultimately, of course, that means damage to performance.

At least Elliott was training. Steve Backley, the European javelin champion, was on the treatment table, injured and out of the European Cup this weekend. Sidelined, perhaps, by the British climate.

On Sunday, he tore an adductor muscle in a leg at a meeting in Loughborough, where the weather, typical of most meetings this summer, was cold and damp. "Steve's injury could have been due to

the cold," Terry Newsome, Backley's physiotherapist, said.

"He had been training in New Zealand and Lanzarote and, when you come back to this, the body does not like it. The skin temperature drops, the muscles constrict and you get injuries."

Rotherham has been no different from Loughborough or, for that matter, Cardiff, Crystal Palace and Belfast, where the three main meetings of the domestic season so far have taken place to a fanfare of broileries.

Elliott said that one session of 800s had been altered to 300s because of the wind and rain in Rotherham. "I have had to change my training, and it's very frustrating," he said.

It is frustrating psychologically as much as physically. "When you look in your training diary to see the times you were doing last year, you start to think you are not in shape," Elliott said.

Roger Black, the European 400 metres champion, said: "Krisz [Akabusi] and I went to do a session of two runs of 350 metres and it was so windy, and raining, that we

had to change the session."

An athlete's legs need to be familiar with speed. "There was no benefit in running into a wind," Black said. "We changed the session so that the farthest we ran was 200s with the wind behind us."

As Frank Dick, Britain's director of coaching, said: "A lot of people see speed as an entity, like strength, but speed is a sophistication of technique. You have to get the right technique co-ordinated at increasingly greater speed and you need favourable conditions for that."



Elliott: training trouble

It was time, Dick said, that Britain addressed the problem of its paucity of indoor facilities. Black felt he was disadvantaged by the lack of a nearby indoor centre.

Dick said: "Because of the generosity of local authorities and the initiatives of sports councils, we now have an embarrassment of outdoor facilities."

"But we need indoor facilities. You do not reach double figures if you are counting the number of adequate indoor centres in the UK."

John Isaacs, Britain's national sprints coach, bemoaned the loss of the indoor facility at Harrogate since April. That is where John Regis, the European 200 metres champion, and Tony Jarrett, the winner of the silver medal in the 110 metres hurdles in the last European championships, train.

Sprinters have the greatest requirement for warm weather, and when it is not there, they desperately need an indoor option.

"We are suffering really badly," Isaacs said. "It is affecting the guys' attitude in training and their performance. In training, you want

to reach race performance levels and, when you get adverse weather, you are never able to get to that."

"For sprinters, quality is the most important thing. The quality must be 95 per cent but, when the weather is adverse, you are functioning at 50 or 60 per cent so you are not getting as great a training effect."

"If the weather was good, we might be doing 60-metre runs in 6.5sec, which is our target time for 100 metres in 10sec. In this weather, you would be lucky to do 7sec."

Norman Poole, national coach for 800 and 1,500 metres, is personal coach to Diane Edwards and Ann Williams, the Commonwealth Games 800 metres gold and silver medal winners.

He said: "One session is three 600s with 15 to 20 minutes' recovery but, if it's raining and athletes are getting cold, we change it to a continuous session. Instead of being speed endurance, it becomes aerobic endurance. It could have an effect on performance."

Defeatist angle loses to Durie

By ALIN RAMSAY

THERE was a cynical opinion circulating at Wimbledon on Monday that the rain would at least preserve the British challenge until the second day of the championships. Yesterday Jo Durie proved that she needed no such help as she cruised into the second round, beating Helen Kelesi, of Canada, 6-3, 6-2.

Kelesi, nicknamed Hurricane Helen for her hot-headed approach to the game, has won only one match at Wimbledon, but her clay-court record and world ranking of 19 make her a tough opponent.

Yesterday, however, she managed to make life as difficult for herself as possible, losing her serve five times, worrying about line-calls and at times appealing to the heavens for guidance.

Both players made their mistakes and holding serve in the first set proved to be something of a novelty. But Durie was the stronger, calmer player as Kelesi became more and more rattled.

For Durie, believing in herself is the key to success. "I know I'm capable of beating these players," she said. "I've beaten two players in the top 20 in the last two weeks, and it's nice when these results come along. I'm not a has-been yet."

Amanda Grunfield started things off for the British contingent, beating Alexia Dechaume, of France, 6-4, 6-4, and setting up a meeting with Martina Navratilova in the next round. Climbing her way up the rankings after a back injury, Grunfield has earned a reputation as a true battler and against Navratilova she will have to be. Still, the opportunity is, as she put it, "like a dream."

Sarah Gomer, with her right knee strapped up, lost the battle of the walking wounded as she went 6-3, 6-3 to Zina Garrison, who is recovering from a pulled stomach muscle. Having wasted most of the afternoon for the court to dry out, Gomer soon realised once play had started that last year's finalist was simply too good for her in every department.

Christopher Wilkinson put up a better fight against Thierry Champion, of France, before losing 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. Wilkinson squandered his chance for a 4-2 lead in the first set against the laid-back Frenchman, and despite taking the third set never looked likely to make the match.

Against Elena Pampoulova, Belinda Borneo appeared to be heading for another British victory, steaming through the first set 6-2 and getting within a point for a 5-1 lead in the third. But her confidence evaporated as she contrived to lose the next four games and stumble out of the championships 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

Play on centre court and court one today will start at 1pm. Play on outside courts will commence at 11am.

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